EAST BAY EXPRESS

SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2012

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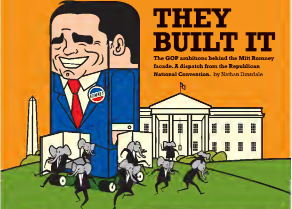
THEY BUILT IT

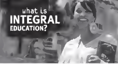
The GOP ambitions behind the Mitt Romney facade. A dispatch from the Republican National Convention. by Nathan Dinsdale



Radioactive Isle 14
A growing number of former Treasure Island residents have cancer, and sources involved in cleaning up the former military base say the Navy has deceived the people who live there now.

Chinglish in Translation 26
David Henry Hwang used a timeless theme to foretell a current political scandal.

Straight Outta Brokeland 29
Telegraph Avenue is Michael Chabon's love letter to the East Bay.



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BACHELOR'S DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM
Wednesday, September 5
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Community drumming event from
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CREATIVE INQUIRY, INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS AND WRITING AND CONSCIOUSNESS (MFA)
Thursday, September 13
5:00PM–6:00PM, room 311

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH STUDIES
Wednesday, September 26
6:00PM–7:00PM (see website for location)

DRAMA THERAPY
Tuesday, October 16
6:30PM–8:00PM, room 311

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620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607
Office 510-879-3700 **Fax** 510-879-3794
National advertising 888-2-RUXTON **Fax** 602-238-4805

The *Express* is free of charge, one copy per reader. To purchase additional copies for $1, visit our office. To order a back issue for $4, or to subscribe, call 510-879-3700. [illegible] The *Express* is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. It is published Wednesdays by East Bay Publishing LLC, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607.
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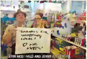
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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
HOW TO SURVIVE UC BERKELEY

The Writing on the Wall?

Thanks! Your blurb about "liberal" in Berkeley is one of the most succinct and clear explanations of our dysfunctional town! I am framing it and will give copies to all those people who ask me about the ultra-liberal leanings of Berkeley.

Thanks for a great job.

Marlon Matus, Berkeley

Enough Bates Boosterism

The recent edition welcoming new students to UC Berkeley and the surrounding community was well-done overall. It was, however, disappointing (again) for Robert Gammon to present such a myopic perspective on Berkeley politics as it relates to development. Gammon has consistently promoted Mayor Tom Bates, and in this article misleads students to think that downtown development will bring more housing at lower rents for students. In reality, the development plan pushed by Bates will result in massive high-rise condominiums that will be very expensive and unaffordable to most local workers, let alone students. If Gammon was a baseball announcer he would be a "homer" for the Bates agenda.

Most people in Berkeley do support a downtown improvement plan that would actually provide housing for local workers at affordable levels, versus huge condos for the very wealthy.

Jon Milne, Berkeley

NIMFY, Either

Robert Gammon is a shill for Mayor Bates, and has been for the past three years that I've read his column. It's most amazing that the *Express*, a publication that serves our community well, allows him to publish such drivel. He derides the public who come to council meetings to plead their causes, always rejected, and calls Berkeley residents NIMBY (not in my backyard) sniveler. Well, I am a Berkeley resident, and a so-called NIMBY. In fact, I don't want most of what Gammon supports in my front yard either. Is his purpose to take over both of my yards?

Two other questions. What has Bates given you, Mr. Gammon, to be his broken mouthpiece? And, where in the world do you live? It would be hard to believe it is Berkeley. Finally, in your article lauding Bates, the picture is at least ten years old. Why not use the more current one the *San Francisco Chronicle* published in its May 27, 2012 edition? It is far more telling of an old pol out to sack his community.

Victoria Pesrotes, Berkeley

Stop West Berkeley Project's Phase 3

Robert Gammon's article tells UC students that people like me are to blame for high student rents in Berkeley. His reasoning is a chain of vague political characterizations unsupported by any specific instances, leading to an exhortation on behalf of a questionable redistricting. In the middle, he concludes that obstructionist NIMBYs are responsible for high students' rents. He is wrong.

He may be referring in part to the Berkeley City Council's current plan to transform West Berkeley by destroying our beloved West Berkeley Plan, which was developed by a process of community consensus and which the council passed unanimously in 1993.

I am one of dozens of West Berkeley's industrial business employers who oppose the destruction. As information about the project has come out, formerly uninvolved residents have been galvanized into participating publicly. They are almost universally opposed. Our West Berkeley community has worked for decades to build the neighborhood into today's vibrant mixture of large and small manufacturing, artisans, and recycling businesses living in close harmony with residents. It's a satisfyingly diverse ecology of commerce.

Now a city council-mandated planning juggernaut, the West Berkeley Project, threatens to replace the West Berkeley Plan. The first two phases of the project are already law. But the goal of Phase Three is to build massive high rise labs and insular multi-acre communities. More than 100 acres would be affected. The project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describes dozens of serious negative effects that can't be mitigated. Council accepted them anyway. The West Berkeley Plan had none.

We're afraid, frankly. Some existing businesses could be displaced along with their services. The EIR shows many homes in the shadows of high-rises. Views both from upper Berkeley and the Bayfront would be blotted out. Traffic at the entries to town would become even more congested.

Ironically, most business owners I know are ourselves developers. We aren't, as Mr. Gammon tells readers, "preservationists" who "live in rent-controlled apartments" or who "own homes with absurdly low property taxes" and come together only to "scream at the city council." Allied with us in opposing the project's impacts at the testifying stages were residents, neighborhood groups, and several non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Gammon is right about one thing. We "packed City Hall chambers," meaning we vastly outnumbered the handful of proponents — mostly big developers and land speculators. This packing happened at every public hearing for over four years. Reliably, businesses and an increasing number of residents showed up to discuss our ideas rationally and reasonably in the one- and two-minute sound bites we were allowed. But the city council and its appointed commissioners ignored our reasoning and caved to the moneyed interests. Mr. Gammon apparently applauds their vote but doesn't say why. He castigates the opposition without venturing an argument.

This tone is unfortunate and the direction unnecessary. The community might have put together a deal, given a chance. Although my role was small, I was one of about 85 people recognized as architects of the successful and popular West Berkeley Plan, which amazingly achieved consensus under the very different management style of Mayor Tom Bates' wife, former Mayor Loni Hancock. Another of the many architects was Councilman Max Anderson who, before being outvoted this time 6-3 in the final stages of the project debacle, called it a "foul exercise."

During the project's process the community wasn't given any way to reach a consensus plan or even talk directly with the developers. Despite multiple calls for face-to-face meetings, we were split by city staff into different "stakeholder groups" which met separately until public hearings were called. Then at each and every hearing for four years the appointed planning commission, followed by the appointing city council, voted 7-2 or 6-3 to give the big-capital developers nearly everything they wanted.

Conversely, the existing community got almost nothing it wanted.

Now Berkeley's voters have a chance to undo this travesty and send Phase Three back to the people to achieve a better outcome. Realizing that we opponents were likely to referend their decision, the council majority placed Phase Three on the November ballot as Measure T. I and many others are asking voters to say no to Measure T.

Stopping Phase Three won't stop development. It will stop only the juggernaut and high-rise labs. What most opponents want is to force the council to let us all get in the same room together. We deserve a chance to work out differences in open discussion, and revive the West Berkeley Plan by creating the consensus that power politics have denied us. Let's try again and do it right. No on Measure T.

Daniel Knapp
President, Urban Ore

What's Wrong with 'Frisco'?

What's with this random (but quite frequent) assortment of people bashing "Frisco" as a term used to refer to San Francisco? Who are you people? I have many friends born and raised in the Bay Area, most from San Francisco

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who call it Frisco every once in a while. My ex in college would lovingly call out "Frisco! You know!" every time he felt like expressing his pride about something cool the city did, does or stands for. I even have a friend from San Leandro who would say things like "I hate driving that truck in Frisco." It's refreshing to hear that old-school term and it seems like all these transplants are anti for some reason.

Natasha Kozla-Korell, Oakland

[illegible] Seven Days, 8/22

It's About Safety

I think having a curfew in Oakland is a good idea and I think Robert Gammon totally misses the point. No one cares that the curfew won't reduce crime. The point is hanging out in parts of East and West Oakland late at night is a bad idea for anyone at any age. People who hang out at 98th Avenue and 14th Avenue, for example, at 3 a.m. are at very high risk of being shot at. And if you don't believe me, just look at the statistics of when and where people are shot. A great many are shot late at night and on the street. And who are being shot in huge numbers? Black and brown kids. Why? Because they're hanging out on street corners late at night and someone comes by and words are exchanged and someone pulls out a gun. And the fact that this happens all the time should be enough reason to have a curfew. Not because it doesn't reduce crime or because some black or brown kids will get profiled, but because we can save some children's lives if we can keep them off the street late at night. And how many children's lives can we save? Who knows? I think if we can save one kid's life then it is worth it.

I dare anyone who is reading this to go to Seminary at East 16th Street, or anywhere on lower 98th Avenue, or Market at 14th Street, or anywhere along San Pablo from Grand to Emeryville at 1 a.m. and just stand on the corner with a few of your friends for an hour or two and wait and see what happens. Then ask yourself: should a child be able to go hang out on one of these street corners?

I remember when I was a kid there was a curfew many decades ago. Did it stop us from leading a life of crime? No, but we did stay indoors late at night because we didn't want to spend the night in jail.

Jay Dodson, Oakland

[illegible] UC Berkeley Student

Town Pride

Thank you for your recent article concerning living in Oakland. I am a native of Oakland. As an adult I have enjoyed living in other places inside and outside of the US. I returned to Oakland in 1984 and have lived here continuously since that time. Oakland is a geographically beautiful city in addition to the fact that it is probably one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in America. I have met several people of various racial backgrounds who have left the surrounding suburbs and are quite happy living in Oakland. They could have chosen to live in other areas. Oakland is a major metropolitan/cosmopolitan city with the pros and cons that go with that distinction. Oakland's physical proximity to San Francisco is without doubt a great advantage. I believe the issues plaguing Oakland are politically based. Again, thanks for your vote of confidence in The Town.

Evelyn Washington, Oakland

[illegible]

A Better Choice?

I hope Jay Youngdahl, who recently in his column dreaded expected appeals to rally behind President Obama, didn't mean all should now go out and vote for him because the Republican ticket is so dangerous, but at times it sounded like that. Jay seemed to be ignoring the facts that:

One: We are in an electoral college system with voting by state. California is not a "swing state." There is no doubt Obama will win California, probably by multiple millions of votes. If the election is close, more California votes for Obama won't make the difference. They can only strengthen symbolic endorsement of his record.

Two: There are other choices on the ballot that actually support liberal values, most prominently Jill Stein of the Green Party. Many votes for Stein would signal support for such values. Extra votes for Obama will signal — what?

Obama won the Democratic nomination in 2008 with the votes of people who believed he would be a president with a clear progressive vision toward which he would "move the polls, not watch the polls."

"We are the ones we have been waiting for," he said. The question remains: For what? We're still waiting. Though Obama is obviously an extremely impressive individual, as far as a moral center or social philosophy, he's made it pretty clear that whatever we may have thought we heard, Jeremiah Wright and Bill Ayers notwithstanding, he seems to like things pretty much the way they are.

The best predictor of a president's second term is the first. Obama has not led. He has no discernible significant plans for the next four years. Wouldn't he have mentioned them by now?

Some point to a difficult political environment as reason to support the president. But Obama was elected in 2008 with the strongest Democratic mandate since 1964. The largest percentage of the vote, the strongest control of Congress. He did, I'd argue, little with it while failing to connect with his base, so that mandate was reversed in 2010. The political environment, at least when Democrats had a majority, was one in which retreat was the first order of battle and no one made a case until elections were imminent, in which liberalism was weakly, rarely, uncertainly articulated, and — surprise! — it lost ground.

The most important thing a president has is the bully pulpit. What the president says and doesn't shapes the national conversation. President is a political job. A president who won't engage with his supporters, more or less continually, not just at election time, undermines his own side.

Statements by Obama's team that they worked at the "frontier of the politically possible" — whether to revive the economy, advance public health care, create jobs or anything else — are transparently fraudulent. Obama has not even gone on TV, addressed the nation, told it what needs to be done and how we can help. Not during the health-care debate, nor during the stimulus debate, nor otherwise. That's apparently

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too old-fashioned, but what takes its place? Answering questions on social media? Kibitzing with celebrity journalists? It doesn't do the same thing.

By "tacking to the center," Democratic leaders like Obama reinforce by acquiescence the false assumptions that help corporate and imperial views dominate American political life and so over time weaken the side they at least claim to be on.

Yes, Obama's government extended unemployment compensation and cut social security taxes. His efforts may extend health insurance to many Americans — however under a hyper-regulated but still-private public utility model that, by failing to control costs and ignoring systemic problems, "kicks the can down the road" while discrediting public health-care solutions into the future, likely shaping a health system with at once the heart and efficiency of PG&E.

What Obama has sadly been best at is killing "America's enemies" — mostly a bunch of guys in the hills of central Asia who see themselves fighting American domination of their world. This is even worse than it seems. At a time of no true global threat and massive budget deficits he has ensured growing military budgets equaling those of the rest of the world. Obama has energetically put a liberal Democratic Third World face on policies of domination across the world from the Middle East to Guantánamo. The corrective of a Democratic party skeptical of imperial adventures has been largely neutralized by Obama's presidency. Were you hoping for a president who might tell Americans they don't really need to dominate central Asia?

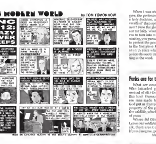
Meanwhile no liberal economist can get near the White House. One may have thought in 2008 electing Obama might give Paul Krugman, Joe Stiglitz, or Robert Reich influence in managing the economy. Instead, he passed it largely to corporate Wall Street guys, perpetuating corporate economics and Wall Street impunity — not that that's helped the economy.

He has offered bailouts without responsibility — for corporations only, promoting an empty economic agenda of "out-competing the world," ignoring the poor and ever advocating for the meaningless "middle class" with which all identify.

For those who support democratic and egalitarian values, any appeal for unified support for Obama now in a safe state like California sadly seems a little too much to evoke what George Bush called "the soft bigotry of low expectations."

Don't waste your vote!

Steve Kopman, Oakland



READ AN EXTENDED VERSION OF THIS WEEK'S CARTOON AT WWW.THISMODERNWORLD.COM

[illegible] 8/15

An Interplay Enthusiast

What a great article!

I've been doing InterPlay since 1998 or so. The first time I came to a class I felt relieved, like I'd come home. It was exactly what I'd been looking for.

From the start, a lot of the exercises were easy and fun. Or sometimes deeply revealing and moving. And the first year or two, a few of the exercises were quite challenging, and I thought I wasn't doing them "right." But in every class the leaders would say to everyone, "You can't do InterPlay wrong — however you doing it, that's the right way." And the atmosphere in every InterPlay class I've ever attended is so positive and playful.

Some of the benefits:

InterPlay has made my writing more fluid and fun. Also I've become a lot more playful, and more easygoing and trusting of life and of myself; that I am "good enough" just like I am.

Several of the InterPlay forms have come in very handy in everyday life. For a quick break from computer work, I'll do the three-breath song, the InterPlay breathing, or a "shake it all out" thing-a-ma-do. Just yesterday I noticed I was feeling fragile. So I did a one-arm dance and allowed a little song to come out, and then did a little free writing about a big trip I am taking. Five minutes later, I was feeling so much better! Plus I got a simple insight which continues to relieve a lot of stress for me about a project I'm involved in.

Meg MacLeod, Asheville, North Carolina

[illegible] Fed [illegible] 8/8

Spitting in the Wind

Ironies abound. If my memory serves me, the original legal challenge that broke residency requirements originated when Berkeley was sued to "diversify" its then-mostly white force. The litigants won the case and then they got their way codified by the statute that currently applies.

The issue of pensioners moving out of the area where they earned it is metastasizing rapidly. It might even be close to a majority of them who are fleeing not just their localities but California in general. The left got its way, taking over the state by sheer weight of numbers through uncontrolled immigration. Now the fiscal meltdown proceeds as the takers swamp the makers. (And wait until you see what California's new "cap and trade" is going to do to what's left of our tax base.)

Even if you dislike such a point of view, at least recognize all of us outside the top One Percent have been sold out by a hellish collection of "bipartisan" policies: The "free trade" deals (actually investor protection schemes designed to make it safe to ship the jobs out), financial deregulation, and ultimately simple non-enforcement of the law. Alleged liberals like Joe Biden voted for whole pile and now complain about the consequences. Academic types who whine about tax rates are a laugh when the overwhelming force driving inequality is globalization itself. But we can't tax imports because that would hurt the state religion of "free trade."

Hope and change? I think about this a lot. Recognize that what has been realized is exactly what Bill Bradley named the policy when he called out Al Gore at the Apollo in 2000: abandonment. There is no investment adequate to re-employ those damaged by the outsourcing and investment policies that I would call un-American. We are left to consider what can be done with the cash flow that still trickles down. (If you want a breath of fresh air on the subject please consult the Solari.com site hosted by Catherine Austin Fitts, whose financial forecasts have proved stunningly accurate — and are curiously absent from my media sources save for late night talk radio and Berkeley's own KPFA.) Ms. Fitts speaks of "community economics," which isn't much more complicated than trying to keep as much cash flow in your local economy as you can. It would be a big help to get people to give up their dope (or at least grow their own?) and spend the money locally. Follow the example of AgLank.com, where they're matching local producers with school lunch programs. It wouldn't hurt the folks still fortunate to get in on a union-protected deal, public or not, to start thinking about the consequences of their consumption and investment decisions. (Ms. Fitts says that the PERS fund managers told her that disinvestment in America would be the trend in the 21st Century.)

When I was studying for an economics degree, the professors taught "diversification" as a holy doctrine, and what could be more "diversified" than spreading investment the world over? Now the global economy turns out to be our tar baby, where each local outbreak threatens to turn into a systemic contagion — necessitating, you guessed it, another bailout scheme to protect the people who caused the problem in the first place. I would say leaving this situation in place while worrying about where the police choose to reside is pretty much like spitting in the wind.

Mark Talmont, Berkeley

[illegible] 8/8

Parks are for the People

What are cows doing in a national park? Who intended grass to be eaten by cows instead of elk? God put the elk she created on this land. Humans put the cows there. Cows are man-made hybrids of an ancient beast God put in Europe. National parks are public property of the people of the USA, just like the wildlife, which has been there for millions of years.

Where did Dianne Feinstein go to school? Leave our wildlife alone. If there are too many elk, there aren't enough cougars and wolves. If you disagree, go back to Europe.

Marcia Denison, Rainier, Oregon

[illegible] United You'll Love Prop 32

What's at Stake

You can't stop something if it isn't being done.

Corporations don't use payroll deductions for political purposes; they take money from profits — away from stockholders. This has no effect on corporate special interests, corporate Super PACs, corporate CEOs, or billionaire businesspeople contributing unlimited amounts to campaigns. These are the same corporations that outsource our jobs. Corporate special interests outspend unions 15-1.

What's at stake? Overtime pay, work schedules, meal breaks, nurse-patient ratios, workplace health and safety laws, vacation days, and sick leave, to name a few. Take a peek at how these same businesses treat their employees in Saipan. Screw 32.

Jane Lee, Sacramento

Corrections

Our 8/29 Fall Arts Story, "High Art Is Paramount," contained two errors. First, that the singer Joan Baez would be participating in the Oakland East Bay Symphony's holiday show (she will not), and second, that Nader Abbasi is Palestinian (he is Egyptian). ●

Letters Policy

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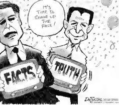
SEVEN DAYS

THE POST-TRUTH CAMPAIGN

Romney and Ryan believe they'll win by telling lies, because voters have stopped paying attention to the news

By Robert Gammon



Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan made it clear last week that they believe they can win the White House by telling lies, over and over again. During their GOP convention speeches, the two men lied repeatedly and deceived the public proudly. They also had to know that journalists would point out their deceit and hypocrisy. Indeed, reporters started doing it almost immediately after the speeches. Even Fox News called Ryan's speech "deceiving." But Romney and Ryan don't care, because they've made what may be an unprecedented political calculation: It's irrelevant whether the news media points out their lies and deceptions because many voters no longer pay attention to the news.

It wasn't that long ago when politicians were afraid of being caught in a lie. They knew that if they lied, then journalists would point it out and they'd have to apologize or make up some believable excuse for lying if they wanted voters to vote for them. It was a simple system: Lie, get caught, and show contrition — or lose the next election. But Romney and Ryan proved definitively last week that they believe this system is no longer operative.

In their post-truth world, there is no political penalty for lying, because the news media doesn't matter. "We're not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact checkers," Romney pollster Neil Newhouse boasted to reporters recently.

So Romney and Ryan have embarked on a strategy that consists of telling lies, and then telling some more. They're doing it in major speeches, and in a barrage of TV ads. In effect, they're betting that voters are more likely to pay attention to political ads they see during their favorite primetime TV shows — such as *American Idol* and *Dancing with the Stars* — than to news reports that point out that the ads are packed with lies and deceptions.

The post-truth strategy might just work. Some news organizations, like *The New York Times*, are blaming the success of the Romney-Ryan plan on the polarization of the news media — that Americans no longer pay attention to news reports that don't reinforce their preconceived beliefs. But it's also true that the news media has been in decline over the past two decades. And it's true that many mainstream news reporters refuse to call a lie a lie. Last week, the Associated Press provided the perfect example with its headline: "Ryan Takes Factual Shortcuts in Speech."

Romney and Ryan also are positioned perfectly for their new strategy. They're swimming in political campaign cash and they're backed by deep-pocketed Super PACs and dark money groups. As such, they'll be able to flood the airwaves with lies and deceptions — as they've already been doing in swing states. They're also betting that many voters will only hear their lies, and so for these Americans the lies will be the only truths they know.

Here are fourteen of the lies and deceptions from Romney and Ryan's speeches and from their current TV ads:

1. Ryan claimed that President Obama "took" $716 billion from Medicare to fund Obamacare and that he and Romney will "protect" Medicare. But Obama did not "take" any funds from Medicare. He achieved savings in the program by lowering future reimbursement rates to medical providers like doctors and hospitals. People on Medicare today and in the future will not be affected by the cuts. Ryan also failed to acknowledge that his own budget plan envisions a similar $700 billion savings from Medicare. He also proposes to privatize Medicare and replace it with a voucher system in which seniors will have to use vouchers to buy private health insurance.

2. Ryan again criticized the Obama stimulus package, but didn't acknowledge that he lobbied the Obama administration for stimulus funds for his own Congressional district.

3. Romney criticized Obama for government bailouts, but didn't acknowledge that one of his companies, Bain Capital, would have collapsed were it not for a $10 million federal bailout.

4. Ryan blamed Obama for the closure of a GM plant in Ryan's district in Wisconsin, but Ryan knows that the plant closed during the Bush administration. Ryan also criticized Obama for the auto bailout without acknowledging that he also voted for the auto bailout. Ryan also didn't acknowledge that the auto bailout saved the US auto industry, and that Romney had proposed allowing the industry to go bankrupt.

5. Ryan blamed the credit downgrade of the US government on Obama, when S&P stated it was in part because the federal government had not raised taxes — tax increases that Ryan and his fellow GOP representatives have steadfastly refused to vote for.

6. Ryan criticized Obama for not embracing the recommendations of the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles debt commission. Ryan, however, did not acknowledge that he was a member of that commission and voted against its recommendations.

7. Ryan criticized Obama for not balancing the federal budget, but did not acknowledge that his own budget plan doesn't envision a balanced budget for at least twenty years.

8. Romney and Ryan repeated the lie that Obama said in a speech that small business owners did not "build" their own businesses. Obama said that business owners throughout the country are helped by the fact that government builds roads that the businesses and their employees use and operates schools that educate future workers.

9. Romney and Ryan criticized Obama for the failure of some small businesses during his administration, effectively saying that it's okay to blame the government if a business fails, but it's not okay for the government to take some credit when it succeeds.

10. Romney and Ryan blamed Obama for not accomplishing more during his first term, but failed to acknowledge that Republicans in Congress attempted to block or actually blocked nearly all of Obama's initiatives.

11. Romney said that Obama embarked on an "apology tour" around the world immediately after taking office, but Obama never once apologized for America's behavior to anyone.

12. Romney claimed that Obama raised taxes on the middle class, but Obama has raised no taxes during his administration.

13. Romney claimed that when he ran Bain Capital it "helped" companies save jobs when in fact, Bain Capital's typical business practice was to saddle companies it took over with huge amounts of debt and outrageous "management fees," thereby forcing the companies to lay off thousands of workers.

14. In a TV ad barrage, Romney and Ryan say Obama eliminated the work requirements in welfare. The president did not; he allowed states to relax the requirements, but only if they could show that more welfare recipients in their states were actually getting jobs. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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LEGALIZATION NATION

HARBORSIDE'S LANOLORDS MOVE TO EVICT

Meanwhile in the dispensary circle of life, Richmond's GDP Collective makes a triumphant return

By David Downs

America's biggest state-legal medical marijuana dispensary appears to have lost some key allies in its existential struggle against the federal government. Faced with a federal forfeiture threat against their properties, the landlords of Harborside Health Center's Oakland and San Jose branches have begun trying to evict the clubs from their homes.

According to court filings reported by Courthouse News Service last week, San Jose landlord Concourse Business Center, LLC "has had ongoing discussions with [tenant] Harborside in an attempt to agree on a date by which Harborside would vacate the property. ... The parties have been unable to reach such an agreement and Harborside has also failed and refused to cease cannabis sales at the property."

Concourse Business Center has since filed an unlawful detainer to evict the popular club as well as made a separate motion to make Harborside stop selling medical cannabis.

Harborside founder Stephen DeAngelo said the Oakland club's landlord, Ana Chretien, also filed an unlawful detainer notice in late August to toss out her famous tenants at 1840 Embarcadero. Harborside opened in Oakland in 2006 and rose to become arguably the biggest nonprofit dispensary in the world, with an estimated 100,000 patients and tens of millions of dollars in annual gross sales. Last October, the federal government publicized coordinated enforcement efforts against increasingly bold marijuana businesses.

After a roundup that included raiding Oakland's Coffeeshop Blue Sky dispensary and affiliated Oaksterdam University in April and dislodging Berkeley Patients Group from its San Pablo Avenue location in May, US Attorney Melinda Haag filed federal forfeiture complaints in July against both of Harborside's locations.

Concourse Business Center argues in court documents that it thought Harborside was legal when it leased the building, but the federal actions have changed its mind. DeAngelo said Concourse's change of heart is reasonable. The Obama administration has flip-flopped on medical pot enforcement, he noted.

Harborside will seek temporary restraining orders (TROs) to block the evictions, DeAngelo said. Court dates have not been set, he said. The TROs could take months to process, especially given court backlogs.

On October 11, Harborside plans to make a motion in federal court for a preliminary injunction against the federal forfeiture claim, a case that could drag out for years.

Nonetheless, Harborside's locations could be raided at any time. Haag has not responded to Harborside's invitations to tour the facility, DeAngelo said.

But life goes on at the clubs, which are still doing brisk business, offering bags of flowers like Jamaican Lion, Bubba Kush, and Strawberry Cough. Harborside also has started asking members to sign up for its rapid response network, write patient testimonials, get involved in representative lobbying, fill out marijuana-effect surveys, and join the club's new delivery service "in the event that we should be prevented from serving patients at this location," DeAngelo said. "We're really trying to pull together the whole movement on this issue," he said.

GDP Collective Is Back

The challenges are clearly mounting for Harborside, but the medical marijuana movement, like the plant itself, is known for surviving harsh climates. For example, on Wednesday, August 29, embattled Richmond dispensary operator Ken Estes announced, "Just in case you haven't heard, The GDP Collective is back! We are pleased to announce that we are once again open in Richmond at 2914 Hilltop Mall Road. After a long struggle to re-open, we look forward to serving our patients needs with the only the BEST medicinal strains."

That's some pretty great news for Estes and GDP Collective members. The shop was closed down by the City of Richmond in a purge of all city dispensaries beginning in 2010. Richmond's City Council has since changed its mind, and in March decided to permit and tax up to six dispensaries. Green Remedy was the first to open. GDP Collective reopened Wednesday, August 22, with 140 patients on the first day. The second day, "the line was out the door," GDP's manager wrote online.

GDP Collective is the only authorized provider of Ken's GDP, Ken's Kush, and Bay 11 seeds, Estes wrote. "These proprietary weed strains have won numerous Cannabis Cup awards, excelling in a flavor profile that's become en vogue around the globe."

Estes — who uses a wheelchair — is a self-described "father, philanthropist, and American entrepreneur." But he hasn't had a smooth ride in the medical marijuana scene. Before his tribulations with the City of Richmond, he faced difficulties operating a dispensary in Berkeley. "I am just a disabled, single father of four children, trying my best to care for my family as well as the patients in my community who are suffering from health afflictions, which as you can imagine is a challenge in my condition," Estes wrote in an email to Legalization Nation. "We have been in full compliance and cooperation with the city and are happy to be able to serve our patients again. However, nobody is more happy than the patients themselves."

NAACP Support

On August 27, marijuana decriminalization initiatives on three state ballots this November — Colorado Amendment 64, Washington Initiative 502, and Oregon Measure 80 — attracted the endorsements of their respective regional chapters of the NAACP. In 2011, the NAACP formally called for an end to the war on drugs, calling it a "complete failure." ●

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

ECO WATCH

FEINSTEIN'S STUDY COMES UP SHORT

A report she commissioned on Point Reyes National Seashore is inconclusive

By Robert Gammon

In her attempt to block the creation of the first marine wilderness on the West Coast, US Senator Dianne Feinstein commissioned a study by the National Academy of Sciences to analyze research used by the National Park Service at Point Reyes National Seashore. Feinstein apparently hoped that the national academy would help her stymie the park service's efforts to close an oyster farm at Point Reyes — a commercial operation in the middle of the planned marine wilderness area. And while the national academy study released last week provided Feinstein and other oyster farm supporters with some ammunition in their long battle against the park service, the report was anything but definitive.

In fact, the National Academy of Sciences said in a statement that the park service's conclusion that the oyster farm is likely harming the Point Reyes environment was "reasonable." Moreover, Thomas Malone, chair of the National Research Council panel that conducted the study, told Eco Watch that, overall, the report found that closing Drakes Bay Oyster Company would probably be "beneficial" for the environment.

Malone said that the main problem that his panel had with the park service's draft environmental statement on the planned creation of the marine wilderness was that its findings were too conclusive. Unfortunately, he said, the scientific data on the oyster farm and its impacts on the environment was too scant to be certain about what will happen when it closes. "Given the data in hand, there were other conclusions that could have been reached that weren't in the report," he said. For example, he said there's a chance that the environmental benefits from closing the oyster farm may be small.

As a result, the national academy is urging the park service to express more "uncertainty" about the oyster farm's effects when it finalizes its environmental impact statement on Point Reyes this fall, Malone added. The park service is conducting the EIR in advance of a decision later this year by US Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on the fate of the oyster farm. The farm's lease at Point Reyes is scheduled to expire November 30. Feinstein, an ardent backer of the oyster farm, has asked Salazar to extend its lease for ten years, a move that would block the creation of the marine wilderness.

Feinstein requested the National Academy of Sciences report after she was angered by the conclusions in the park service's draft environmental impact statement. It was the second time that Feinstein had asked the national academy to analyze work conducted by the park service at Point Reyes. The senator apparently was hoping for a replay of the first national academy review she requested: it ended up being strongly critical of park service science. However, the national academy report released last week was far more measured. In fact, the new report is unlikely to settle the long-running dispute over the oyster farm's environmental impacts at Point Reyes.

Moreover, as the *Express* has previously reported, the degree to which the oyster farm harms the environment is ultimately irrelevant as to whether its lease should be extended. That's because the coastal inlet the oyster farm occupies at Point Reyes — known as Drakes Estero — cannot become a marine wilderness under federal law as long as the oyster farm operates in the middle of it — even if the farm has no measurable impacts on the environment.

Indeed, that was one of the conclusions reached by researchers at UC Berkeley School of Law that was officially published in August in *Ecology Law Quarterly*, the research, which the *Express* first published in June, concluded that the fate of the oyster farm is really a legal and political issue — not an environmental one. The reason is that if Salazar decides to extend the oyster farm's lease, it will set a nationwide precedent. The federal government has never before extended the lease of a commercial operation, such as the oyster farm, in an area designated by Congress to become a federally protected wilderness area, the UC Berkeley researchers found. Congress made that designation for Drakes Estero in 1976, calling it "potential wilderness." As such, the estero is to become a full fledged marine wilderness as soon as the oyster farm's lease expires (even the National Academy of Sciences report that was released last week acknowledged that fact).

FEINSTEIN REQUESTED THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT AFTER SHE WAS ANGERED BY THE CONCLUSIONS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

The UC Berkeley researchers noted that if Salazar agrees to Feinstein's request and extends the oyster farm's lease, it could lead to the same thing happening on other federal lands around the nation that Congress has designated as "potential wilderness" areas. Although Feinstein has claimed that Salazar's decision would not set a nationwide precedent, the UC Berkeley researchers pointed out that her disclaimer "does not preclude other members of Congress — noting the Secretary's willingness to sacrifice wilderness values under political pressure — from seeking legislative (or legislatively authorized consideration of) extensions of commercial operations in potential wilderness areas in their own states."

As for the oyster farm itself, it remained closed last week because of food contamination problems. The California Department of Public Health noted that at least three people had become violently ill after eating tainted raw oysters from Drakes Bay Oyster Company in July. ●

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It quickly became [illegible] that few were enamored of Mitt Romney

NEWS

THEY BUILT THAT

GOP ambitions beneath the Mitt Romney facade. A report from the Republican National Convention

By Nathan Dinsdale

I had a decision to make. I'd been in Tampa for all of fifteen minutes and I was already late for something, anything, everything — a white rabbit with OCD searching for Mad Hatters. Of course, I knew that the real Republican National Convention would occur far from the Klieg lights and sound bites of primetime. It'd be found in closed-door meetings, invitation-only events, and the visceral experience of witnessing the awkward, painful birth of history in the making.

The week before the RNC began, that manifested itself in the creation of the official GOP platform. According to a *Washington Post* account, proposed initiatives included returning to the gold standard, safeguarding against Sharia law, loosening gun regulations, building a new border fence, and excluding female soldiers from combat duty.

My choices were less reasonable. At that very moment, Lynyrd Skynyrd was playing an exclusive gig downtown, Log Cabin Republicans were gathering at a bar called The Rusty Pelican, and throngs of delegates, dignitaries, and media were gaping at bright shiny things dangled by the Tampa Bay Host Committee at Tropicana Field.

Instead, I opted to drive my Democrat blue rental car with Rhode Island plates to the gritty outskirts of eastern Tampa for a Tea Party gathering dubbed "Unity Rally 2012." As Hurricane Isaac veered left, I was about to turn hard right.

A lot has changed since November 4, 2008, not the least of which is the hope for change that carried Barack Obama to the White House. That election night, millions cheered, doves sang, and unicorns galloped through the streets of Chicago as Oprah and I squealed like six-year-olds.

Four years later, we're in the middle of a Cormac McCarthy novel. Beyond global recession and worldwide political upheaval, the tenor of US politics is wedged in the grease trap of Sylvia Plath's oven. The partisan divide has reached Grand Canyon proportions while the national discourse has sunk deep into a fetid swampland.

"Too often in today's poisonous atmosphere, those of us who reach across the aisle to work with colleagues of a different party end up vilified by both the far left and the far right," Senator Susan Collins, a member of the moderate Republican Main Street Partnership, told me in an email. "As one constituent said to me, 'Why can't you all be Americans first?'"

It's an election year for starters. Republicans cite rabid liberalism, socialist agendas, and Obama's utter lack of leadership as their excuse for being obstructionists. Democrats clamor about radical conservatism, cynical right wing sabotage, and the hot mess Obama inherited for their apparent impotence. It's the worst game of But They Did It First ever.

"For both sides, it isn't about what's best for the country anymore; it's about what's best for the party every time," said Christine Todd Whitman, the former New Jersey governor and Environmental Protection Agency administrator under George W. Bush. "That's extremely disheartening for people who truly care about public service. Our Founding Fathers worried about a time when political party would supersede policy, and I think we're there."

Still, I don't really blame Mitt Romney or the team of Jim Henson Company puppeteers in charge of animating his facial expressions during stump speeches. He's a well-intentioned, self-aware Manchurian Candidate

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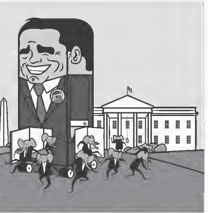
doing what it takes to fulfill a family legacy and get to Pennsylvania Avenue, even if it means pouring out a little pander-flavored Meow Mix for feral birthers with his "Nobody's ever asked to see my birth certificate" quip just before the RNC.

Candidates will be candidates. My focus in Tampa was of a broader scope to see if there is any room for moderation left or if we are, in fact, in the middle of an ideological civil war. Beg your pardon, An "Ideological War of Northern Aggression." This is the South, after all.



Whether you view the Tea Party as a beacon of light or the heart of darkness, there's no denying that the passionate consortium of pissed-off conservatives represents both the fervent desire for a better future and the philosophical abyss that divides the country's partisans. Virtually every Republican I spoke to during the RNC believes that the Tea Party is unfairly maligned and its key issues (fiscal conservatism, small government, taxes) frequently misrepresented. Liberals see the Tea Party as the end result of conservatives going off their meds en masse. Republicans see a grassroots return to conservative principles.

There was supporting evidence for both arguments at the Unity Rally. Dustin Stockton, chief strategist for TheTeaParty.net, told several hundred attendees — some waving "Don't Tread on Me" flags, others dressed in colonial garb — that "what we're proposing isn't radical, it isn't extreme." He then implied that the US Postal Service should be abolished.

Stockton was preceded by conservative talk-show host Neil Boortz calling Democrats "the looters, the moochers, the parasites," and Tea Party Nation founder Judson Phillips pulling a Chuck Heston in offering his freedom and liberty to Obama and company "when you pry it from my COLD! DEAD! HANDS!"

What the movement has indisputably done is energize Republicans and accelerate the swift rise of hardline candidates like Representative Michelle Bachmann and Senators Marco Rubio and Rand Paul.

"I'm very excited about the new generation of conservative leaders," said Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union, which runs the influential Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). "We have seen outstanding, talented people who are representing the future of the party and of the conservative movement."

Speaking to the Unity Rally about the official party positioning, Bachmann declared: "The Tea Party is all over that platform." It was a sentiment echoed by the event's keynote speaker, former GOP presidential candidate Herman Cain, who cited vigilance and the unification of conservative voices as the key to defeating Obama.

"Stay informed," Cain implored the crowd solemnly, "because stupid people are running America."

For all the rewards — and risks — that the Tea Party provides to Republicans, arguably no individual holds more power in keeping the conservative alliance intact than former GOP presidential candidate and Libertarian idol Representative Ron Paul of Texas. You'd be hard pressed to find a legislator with a more passionate, eclectic, and flat-out perplexing political fan base. We're talking about a guy whose platform of limited government and individual liberty had his supporters flocking to a three-day P.A.U.L. Festival in Tampa leading up to the RNC. I repeat: A three-day festival. For a member of Congress.

The night before the convention, Paul loyalists gathered at a waterfront bar called Whiskey Joe's for a late-night event hilariously titled "Ron Paul's *Liberty Rocks Beach Party*" featuring Blues Traveler frontman John Popper and blues guitarist Jimmie Vaughan. In a bizarre scene, dudes sporting goatees and cargo shorts threw back Coronas on the beach alongside guys in full suits and discussed the merits of the Keystone Pipeline, how the tax system is institutional thievery, and why the Federal Reserve should be investigated — all while being pelted with swirling wind and rain brought on by Tropical Storm Isaac.

"We're all very independent minded, and that's one of the great things about the liberty movement," said Bryn Donnelly, a 24-year-old college student who traveled from Eugene, Oregon, to support Paul. "On the flip side, that means everybody kind of wants to do their own thing, so it can be kind of hard to get everybody organized and all in one place."

Nevertheless, Paul supporters had the second-most visible presence on the streets of Tampa beside the thousands of khaki-clad law-enforcement deployed during the convention. The city had braced for upwards of 5,000 protesters. Instead, they got a whole lot of weak sauce.

The convention perimeter was fortified for an invasion. But the only "activists" to show were Ron Paul supporters, bored street kids, a few curbside preachers, two anti-gay groups, some Scientologists, and a couple of scattered groups advocating assorted causes. The only protesters to show any balls, so to speak, were Code Pink activists wearing giant vagina costumes. Members of the women-led social justice organization also managed to infiltrate the Tampa Bay Times Forum disguised as prim partisans. When they stood up and began shouting "People over profits!" in an attempt to disrupt Romney's acceptance speech, they were quickly subdued and led away amid arena-wide chants of "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

The lack of dissent expressed at the RNC by virtually anyone not affiliated with Ron Paul wasn't exactly a ringing endorsement for Romney. It quickly became clear — in the way people chose their words like it was their last meal — that few were completely enamored with the nominee.

"It's hard to find the perfect candidate," said Jerry T. Miller, a Kentucky delegate and Louisville Metro Council member. "If I could, I'd probably take a quarter of Romney, a quarter of Ron Paul, a quarter of Rick Santorum, and maybe a quarter of Newt Gingrich."

But while unbridled enthusiasm for Romney may be lacking, complete vitriol for Obama — supplemented by the selection of Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin

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Ron Paul
PRESIDENT 2012

Ron Paul supporters like Bryn Dennehy were among the few activists who showed up Nathan Dinsdale

as the VP nominee and the adoption of a conservative-friendly party platform — is clearly fueling the campaign.

"There has always been a passionate sense of need and urgency to defeat this president," Cardenas said. "But you also want to be excited about the ticket. I think with the selection of Paul Ryan, the adoption of the platform, and that sense of urgency, we're getting a confluence of factors that are really energizing people."

Make no mistake: partisans thrive on red meat. Talk meaningfully about bipartisan compromise and you'll receive irritated glares. Mention 9/11, freedom, The American Dream and Barack Hussein Obama in the same sentence and your likeness will be carved into Mt. Rushmore by sundown. George W. Bush may be gone, but you're still either with us or against us.

"This isn't the time for middle-of-the-road politicians," Cardenas said. "The only way Congress is going to move forward is if either party has the White House and a majority in both houses of Congress. Our focus is on a Republican majority."

That much was apparent at a screening of the documentary *Ronald Reagan: Rendezvous with Destiny*, part of an RNC film series operated by a company called Citizens United Productions offering such titles as *Occupy Unmasked* (introduced by Bachmann) and *The Hope & The Change* (a film about Democrats and independents who've turned on Obama).

During the screening of *Reagan*, the audience cheered when the Gipper intoned, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" and was practically giddy when he said, "There is no substitute for victory." The room was silent when the documentary — narrated by Newt Gingrich and his unblinking wife Callista — mentioned Reagan's record of achieving across-the-aisle accords.

After the screening, I asked Gingrich — who was on hand to introduce the film and hawk merch — what the bipartisan prospects were for a Romney administration. He echoed the aspirations of a clean Republican sweep in November. "Look, if we win control of the Senate, he'll be able to put together a majority coalition and there will be a handful of Democrats who will vote with him," Gingrich said. "If that doesn't happen, it's much harder. If Harry Reid is still the majority leader, it is going to be very hard to get things done that we want to get done."

But in order to energize enough voters to unseat Obama, the Republicans have been forced into an awkward position of maintaining a hardline stance that appeals to the base while trying to expand the "big tent" far enough to soften its image and mobilize more moderate Republicans and independents.

That approach seemed to manifest itself in an RNC panel discussion promisingly titled "Can we have a bipartisan debate about health care reform?" After some legitimately thoughtful discussion amongst an all-Republican panel, Representative Phil Gingrey of Georgia concluded, "I think we can do it, and we can do it in a bipartisan fashion."

As satisfied attendees filtered out of the room, they passed a table stacked with literature that included a promotional card for the book *Why Obamacare Is Wrong for America* (authored by the panel moderator), a brochure titled "The 10 Worst Things About Obamacare" and a *Forbes* article with the headline "The real tragedy of Obamacare has yet to be felt by the poor."

One thing that was becoming readily apparent as I forged my way through convention week was a collective — if almost universally unrecognized — penchant for cognitive dissonance. "The

Republican Party is not anti-immigration," Alejandro Capote, a twenty-year-old Florida State University student (and Florida delegate) told me. "We support immigration. We just support legal immigration."

The fact that Capote had just finished telling me the harrowing story of how his father hand-built a raft in a failed effort to flee his native Cuba and immigrate — illegally — to the United States didn't seem to register.

I received a similar — though more nuanced — response from Clarke Cooper, national executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, an organization of gay conservatives, when I asked him about the staunch position supporting the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) written into the party's official convention platform.

"While the platform language is abysmal," Cooper began, measuring his words. "I was heartened to see the debate and the dialogue that occurred. I think it reflected the push-pull within our party on these issues. The trend is in our favor."

Cooper rightfully pointed out the fact that Log Cabin has earned an increasingly visible and substantive position within the Republican Party. His view is that the doggedly conservative stance on DOMA held by the GOP is a "last gasp."

Then again, the group is still understandably cautious. I was allowed to interview delegates attending a Log Cabin event at a posh waterfront restaurant but was forbidden from taking any pictures. One guest understood the sensitivities better than most. "Gay Republicans have much more of a voice today than they've ever had," said former Arizona Representative Jim Kolbe, one of the first Republican members of Congress to acknowledge the fact that he's gay. "Sure, I'm dismayed when moderates don't get their voice heard — and I guess you'd have to consider gay Republicans on the moderate side of things — but it's a gradual progression that I think we're going to see continue."

JESUS HATES
GOD HATES HOMOS
HOMO SEX IS SIN
Fuck these guys

Other activists at the convention included anti-gay protesters.

Nathan Ihnsdale

It's a measured approach that's been adopted by what Herman Cain flamboyantly calls the "ABCs" or American Black Conservatives. And, yes, I can confirm that they do exist, despite the NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll that was bandied about during convention week and surmised that Romney figured to gain exactly 0 percent of the African-American vote.

Dr. Carol Swain, a former Democrat, was a featured panelist at an RNC forum titled "Black People and the Republican Party — A Historic Perspective." Her fellow panelists included Tim Johnson (founder of the Frederick Douglass Foundation) and Reverend C.L. Bryant, an ardent Tea Party supporter who starred in a documentary called *Runaway Slave* that aired in Tampa in the same theater showing the conservative breakout film *2016: Obama's America* to packed houses.

"On election night 2008, I was doing analysis for BBC Radio, and I told 186 million people that I thought Obama supporters would have buyer's remorse, and everybody was shocked," said Swain, a professor at Vanderbilt University. "I think the black community is worse off because of his election. I wish it had been a different black person who was elected the first black president. I wish it was somebody that I knew loved my country." ●

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Throughout the island, the Navy has found small disks, some of which contain very high levels of radium-226, a dangerous toxin.

Avery Lee

Radioactive Isle

A growing number of former Treasure Island residents have cancer and sources involved in cleaning up the former military base say the Navy has deceived the people who live there now

By Ashley Bates

Margaret Billsborough has survived unspeakable traumas: childhood abuse, wrenching poverty, homelessness, and crack-cocaine addiction. So when she and many other vulnerable people like her were given the opportunity to move into an apartment on San Francisco's Treasure Island, it seemed like a dream come true. Here, she thought, was a quiet, idyllic refuge where she could begin to heal.

What she didn't know at the time was that the former Naval base was strewn with radioactive waste. She did not know that many past residents now have cancer. She did not know that cleanup workers, lawyers, activists, and health officials have been trying for years to sound the alarm.

But she *did* sense that something was not quite right. She was told not to plant vegetables in her yard. The lease she signed warned: "This apartment community contains — substances known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or birth defects." When she walks around the island, she sees many fenced-off sites with signs that state, "Warning: Radiologically Controlled Area." One of these radioactive sites is adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club, where her kids often played.

From Billsborough's perspective, the Navy, which oversees the cleanup, doesn't really care about her family, despite the cheery newsletters it sends out reassuring residents about the cleanup process. In 2008, Billsborough and her two youngest daughters — ages seven and nine at the time — woke up to find workers in blue Hazmat suits and masks digging up a common area right behind her backyard on 1244G North Point Drive. No one had told her that these workers were coming. Her window was wide open. Alarmed, she called her caseworker and property manager. While the cleanup workers were still digging, an official from the Navy showed up. He apologized for not telling her to shut her window, called off the dig, and told the workers to leave.

"It was never reported anywhere," Billsborough said. "Nothing was ever done. Nobody ever came and said, 'Do you want to get checked out from the doctor?' Nothing. They were just like, 'These people are in low-income housing. They really don't know who to talk to and what to do about it anyway.' And I feel that that's how they view us out here."

After my conversation with Billsborough at her home in early August, The Bay Citizen published two news reports, on August 17 and 28, that featured excerpts from emails and memos between the Navy and government agencies, some of which suggest that the danger of radioactive waste on Treasure Island has been poorly assessed and underreported. The emails also show that the Navy has attempted to stymie its strongest critic: the California Department of Public Health. Many Treasure Island residents, including Billsborough, are now terrified about their children's long-term health. They are beginning to band together and confront the authorities.

Created from a landfill in 1937 for the 1939 and 1940 Golden Gate International Exposition, Treasure Island opened in 1942 as a naval base during a period when the US government was testing nuclear bombs in the Pacific. The base was used, in part, to repair ships that the Navy recently acknowledged might have been exposed to nuclear waste, and also served as a training center for nuclear decontamination, which involved the use of radium-226 and other radioactive materials.

Radium-226 is one of the more dangerous toxins in the world. While some radioisotopes have short half lives — i.e. the time it takes for the toxicity of a substance to be reduced by half — radium-226 has a half life of 1,600 years. Radium-226 is therefore almost as toxic today as it was sixty years ago. The greatest risk is ingestion. Depending on the form by which it is ingested, it may never leave a person's body — the body treats radium-226 like calcium and consequently it moves into the bones. This means that when you ingest radium-226, you likely ingest it for life. The heightened risk of cancer and other illnesses may stay with you forever.

The dangers of exposure to radioactive materials were less understood in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, and contamination cleanup was far less thorough than it is today. The island may have been polluted during the cleanup of a nuclear training ship called the *Pandemonium* or by mistakes made during nuclear decontamination trainings conducted on the island. In 1950, after 40 milligrams of radium sulfate powder was spilled in a Navy lab, students and instructors inadvertently tracked the powder to other areas. Additionally, the Navy has found octagonal, 1-inch, and 1.5-inch diameter metal disks throughout the island from an unknown source; some of these disks contain very high levels of radium-226.

According to two confidential sources who have been involved in aspects of the Treasure Island cleanup, the Navy has deceived residents in the past about the safety of the island and continues to deceive them now. Over the past five years, at least three shipments of extremely dangerous radioactive contamination — most of it from these metal disks — have been moved from Treasure Island to secure locations. One of these shipments left Treasure Island in 2007, another in 2009, and the third likely left in 2011. The level of radioactive contamination in these shipments was considered high. "If a person spent a few hours in close proximity to the material inside one of these shipments," one source said, "he or she could receive enough exposure to be dead within a month."

Kim Kellner knew nothing about the radioactive waste when she lived on Treasure Island as a teenager from 1970 to 1975. Her dad was career Navy, and the family moved to the island from the Naval Air Station on Guam. For her, Treasure Island was a safe, beautiful place where she traveled everywhere by foot — to the island's teen club, bowling alley, cafeteria, and movie theater — always breathing in the fresh ocean air. "It was the best," she remembered. "That's why, when you read a lot of the posts [on Facebook], people have fond memories of the place — not realizing that we were paying a price."

In 2002, Kellner was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her doctors determined through genetic testing that it was not hereditary. She endured chemotherapy and a mastectomy, and her cancer is now in remission. As she began to share her story with others, Kellner noticed a troubling trend. In addition to both of her parents, more than a dozen of her Treasure Island friends and neighbors also had cancer. One of her closest friends, Sam Tyo, died at the age of 45, killed by stomach cancer that spread to his pancreas and liver. Kellner visited him two weeks before his death, and she recalled him wondering aloud why his own brother and so many of his friends had cancer, too.

When Kellner took her husband to Treasure Island in 2009 to show him where she grew up, it had turned into a ghost town. All of her former stomping grounds — the cafeteria, movie theater, and bowling alley — were boarded up with signs warning of asbestos and other cancer-causing toxins. She also remembered that in the early 1970s, there had been construction going on near the former teen club, which was located across from the elementary school. "During the time that we were going to that teen club, they were digging up an area on the northwest end of the island for new housing, and no one ever knew of any hazardous waste there," she said. "So I'm thinking now, 'Geez! We were on that island!' and we were probably downwind, because the wind came from west to east. So we may have been breathing all of that stuff.'"

As she pulled up to her former home at 1317C Gateview Drive, she was in for an even bigger shock. The whole unit was fenced off and covered with green tarps. Signs on the fences warned of radioactive materials. "It just made me sick," she said. "And then to see that there were people living on the island."

Kellner and a dozen other former residents interviewed for this story are disheartened that no one has acknowledged what they believe is the real cause of their suffering. EJ Mocklin lost eleven childhood friends to cancer, including his best friend, Tina Miltenberger, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 26 and died in 1996 at the age of 39. Miltenberger's sister is a survivor of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. "For me, this is Tina's story," said Mocklin, who gave the eulogy at Miltenberger's funeral and has himself survived leukemia and multiple sclerosis. "I won't be at peace until they say, 'Yes, the toxic waste has had an impact on human health and it's affected thousands of people.'"

Kim Kellner survived breast cancer and her close friend, Sam Tyo, died of stomach cancer in 2005. Kim Kellner

The approximately 2,000 people living on Treasure Island today are a mix of low- to middle-income college students, residents, and professionals who chose to reside on the island, despite many of them knowing that there might be health risks. One resident, Alex Kostushkin, moved to Treasure Island four years ago from a town near Chernobyl, the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster. "I saw [radioactive waste] signs near our house [on Treasure Island] but did not pay too much attention to it," he said.

Mark Connors, the editor-in-chief of *Treasure Island News*, a community newsletter that includes summaries of Navy meetings about the contamination cleanup, said he came to Treasure Island for the cheap rent in a "nice, quiet place" with "lots of fresh air." He lives in what he describes as a "huge" three-bedroom that rents for less than $2,000 a month with all utilities included. He said his main concern is the community's "episodic crime waves."

Connors and others like him who rent market-rate homes compose about 71 percent of the island's residents; however, many within that group are financially insecure. Market-rate renters include people in subsidized Section 8 housing, people living on Social Security or unemployment, and cash-strapped college students who share multi-room apartments — paying as little as $300 or $400 per person per month, with all utilities included. "It's almost like economic slavery in a way," said Kathryn Lundgren, a market-rate resident. "They've entrapped us by making it so appealing, and now my family is in an economic condition we never expected and we can't afford to move."

The other 29 percent of the residents come to the island through the Treasure Island Homeless Development Initiative's member organizations. For many of these individuals, it was Treasure Island, the ghetto, or the streets. Former ex-convicts, recovering drug addicts, HIV-positive individuals, and the formerly homeless find on Treasure Island the support they desperately need for themselves and their families. In many cases, residents pay rent that's 30 percent of their income; some have no income and consequently pay no rent. A federally funded program on the island called Job Corps provides free room and board to students who want to obtain their GED or high school diploma, learn a trade skill, and receive help in finding a job and living independently. I talked with ten Job Corps students who were hanging out in the school courtyard during the first week in August; only three knew about radioactive waste on the island.

Why were people allowed to move onto the island in the late 1990s, even when the Navy and San Francisco political leaders knew there might be health risks? At the time, city officials worried that the former Navy housing would decay and lose value, and San Francisco was looking for an additional source of revenue to offset the cost of managing Treasure Island. The city anticipates receiving approximately $4.3 million in fiscal year 2012-13 from market-rate rental housing revenues.

Saul Bloom of Arc Ecology voiced his opposition when the city first opened the island to renters after the Navy closed the base in 1997, and he's alternately been a promoter and a critic of the island's development. Although his environmental advocacy organization was originally supportive of the city's 2006 development plan for the island, Arc Ecology (as part of Citizens for a Sustainable Treasure Island) recently filed a lawsuit challenging the Navy's environmental impact report; a decision is expected before the end of the year. "It's called sloppiness," he said of the decision to open the island to residential housing. "It's called failure to do your due diligence before you actually go ahead and begin to utilize the site and not paying attention to the reasonable concerns people have. ... [It's about] looking to satisfy one bottom line while ignoring another."

Over the past fifteen years, the island has gradually opened for business to the general public — it has hosted film productions (including *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*), conferences for prominent companies like Oracle, jewelry exhibitions, weddings, music festivals, as well as little league and rugby teams. Environmentally conscious visitors can even charge their electric vehicles on the island at three charging stations in the Treasure Island Marina parking lot.

Multiple wineries also operate on the island, including The Fat Grape Winery. I met with Patrick Bowen, the owner, in early August as he sprayed down large metallic wine containers with water. For Bowen, and many business owners on the island,

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Officials allowed people to move to Treasure Island in the late 1990s despite the health risks. Ashley Bates

radioactive waste is a sensitive issue — it's bad for business. Bowen said he wasn't concerned about toxins on the island because "it all goes through state regulations and federal regulations." He added, "Business is getting better every day, every week, every month. I have lots of returning customers. ... I have something different — wine without sulfides. There are only five or six wineries without sulfides in the state of California." Despite the fact that his winery is two blocks from the island's "high radiation" storage area, Bowen said, "Sulfides are more of a concern to me because I'm allergic, than any radioactive materials out here."

The most worrisome sites on the island are those where kids with fragile, still developing immune systems may be exposed to toxins. The island's only child development center serves about 45 kids, ages three months to five years, and is directly across the street from a radiologically controlled area called Site 31, which contains low-level radioactive dirt that has yet to be shipped off the island. "When the balls go over the fence, we don't get them back," said center director Kathee Autumn.

The draft minutes of an August 3, 2011 meeting about the cleanup that was closed to the public highlighted concerns raised during the meeting by Gene Forrer, an associate health physicist at the California Department of Public Health's Radiologic Health Branch. According to the draft minutes, Forrer "pointed out that no radiological controls were in place during the field work at Site 31." He also noted that a pile of dirt excavated from Site 31 was "significantly contaminated" and asked about "the problem of wind and the site location between the child development center and the Boys & Girls Club."

While kids at the child development center and the Boys & Girls Club are closely supervised, adolescents and teenagers often wander the island alone. In May 2006, *SF Weekly* published "Toxic Acres," which included a photo of a child who looked to be about ten years old crawling out of a contaminated, off limits area on Treasure Island. Examples like this belie the Navy's insistence that it has implemented institutional controls to keep people safe, including cordoning off contaminated areas, covering radioactive dirt with plastic and instructing residents not to grow anything in the soil. The reality is that some people — children especially — simply are not going to follow the rules.

The Treasure Island community may look dramatically different in the coming decades if San Francisco political leaders and real estate developers are able to move ahead with their plans to build an eco-friendly mini-city of 20,000 people. The City of San Francisco has agreed to pay up to $105 million for the Treasure Island site and will also contribute more than $800 million in bond funds. Treasure Island Community Development LLC — which comprises Lennar, Wilson Meany and Kenwood Investments — will contribute approximately $500 million. Politicians have predicted Treasure Island will become the city's "premiere date night locale" and developers have made ambitious plans for multiple residential towers, a forty story hotel, parks, boutique shops, and restaurants. At least 25 percent of units will reportedly be set aside for low-income housing.

Many have celebrated the plans as a win-win for everyone involved, and labor unions in particular have been among the strongest supporters. Former House Speaker and San Francisco Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi said that development on Treasure Island will create 2,500 long term jobs and bring $5 billion in public and private investment.

Others have lambasted the development deal for alleged obfuscations, insider deals and conflict-of-interest issues. Tony Hall, the former executive director of the Treasure Island Development Authority (the lead city agency responsible for overseeing the project), described Treasure Island development as a "den of corruption." In a 2010 San Francisco Public Press Special Report on Treasure Island, journalist Jeremy Adam Smith wrote, "The more one learns about the state lobbyists and developers have in Treasure Island, the more one wonders if the Ecotopian vision isn't just a way to sell development to a skeptical public."

Treasure Island Community Development LLC was one of only two bidders for the project. Other potential developers reportedly opted not to bid in part due to concerns about the risk of the island liquefying in an earthquake. After the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, Treasure Island sank several feet. Environmentalists also have voiced concern about a disaster if a massive flood hits the island — an earthquake off Alaska could trigger one — or if sea levels rise more than developers have anticipated.

Tsunamis and sea-level rise also complicate the radioactive contamination cleanup because they increase the potential for contamination to spread to other parts of the island — and the Bay Area. This could be worsened by the fact that the groundwater is extremely high on Treasure Island, making radioactive material more than a foot underground almost impossible to detect with surface scans. During a natural disaster, hidden radioactive material could come to the surface and harm residents trapped on the island.

Lennar, one of the three companies leading the Treasure Island project, specializes in transforming former military bases — many of which are similarly contaminated — into residential housing. It also helped fuel the recent mortgage crisis through its involvement in subprime loan properties and speculative over-building. And as it has done on Treasure Island, Lennar once made commitments to build affordable housing in San Francisco's Hunters Point and Orange County. In Orange County, Lennar required low-income buyers to make a 30 percent down payment, although it originally advertised the project with the words "3 percent down payment required." In Hunters Point, Lennar built less low-income housing than it had advertised when San Francisco voted in favor of its development plan. After struggling to stay afloat through the mortgage crisis, Lennar seems to have bounced back, but its stability is increasingly dependent on risky mega-projects like Treasure Island — which may explain why the company is pushing so hard to get city officials to expedite the Treasure Island development despite the health and environmental issues.

Elected officials often have political and financial incentives that can override concerns about public health, and Treasure Island is no exception. "When we go in to try to stop these toxic and radioactive projects, it's really hard to get the [San Francisco] city officials to do the right thing," said Eric Brooks, the campaign coordinator for Our City, a movement working on consumer, social justice, and environmental issues. "They're under pressure from companies like Lennar and also from the building trade unions, whose members are desperate for work. I don't fault them, but it's kind of like in the old days when loggers were pitted against environmentalists. We should all be working together on this. The builders will be more exposed to toxins than anyone else."

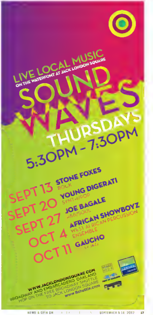
The City of San Francisco, meanwhile, has pledged to exercise the highest level of caution to protect public health. On June 17, 2003, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the "precautionary principle" as city and county policy. Part of the statement read: "Where threats of serious or irreversible damage to people or nature exist, lack of full scientific certainty about cause and effect shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City to postpone measures to prevent the degradation of the environment or protect the health of its citizens."

The precautionary principle was not followed on Treasure Island. Last month the *Express* obtained internal emails and memo exchanges between the Navy, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control in which officials from the Department of Public Health voiced concern at the "heavily flawed" 2006 Historical Radiological Assessment, which claimed that radiological contamination of the island was minimal and confined to a handful of hotspots. The Bay Citizen obtained most of the same documents for its August 17 and 28 reports.

The correspondences were provided to the *Express* by Tony Gantner, a local environmental lawyer who has followed this issue for the past two years and obtained the documents through a California Public Records Act request. Gantner has written letters to the San Francisco Mayor's Office, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and to citizen leaders of Treasure Island, drawing attention to the potential danger. One of his letters, hand-delivered to the office of Mayor Ed Lee on November 9, 2011, followed the city's April certification of an Environmental Impact Report that claimed that "remaining low-level radiological material contamination at the Naval base is isolated to small portions of Site 12 and Building 233." Gantner wrote in his letter: "That was a radiologic lie then. ... It has proven even more so today."

Many of the cleanup mistakes at Treasure Island can be traced to the work of Shaw

In 2008, workers in hazmat suits dug up the area behind Margaret Sibborough's then home. Ashley Bates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A contaminated work site is across the street from the island's only child development center.
Ashley Eaton

Environmental, which is contracted by the Navy to conduct the cleanup and has financial incentives not to find radiologic material. Uncovering radiologic material means that the project slows down dramatically. In a 2007 Navy newsletter to residents of Treasure Island, Shaw Project Manager Pete Bourgeois stated that the most rewarding and challenging part of his job was "completing a task or project on time, under budget, and safely providing the client's service that helps them with their final goal." The client he presumably referred to was the Navy, not the people of Treasure Island.

Internal emails and memos suggest that Shaw was initially sloppy in handling radioactive material, although the company has since amended many of its protocols. Shaw received multiple notices of violation from the state for its failures to properly measure and document radiation levels and for its unsafe movement of radioactive soil around the island in a manner that may have contaminated previously uncontaminated sites. A June 23, 2011 letter from Kent Prendergast of the California Department of Public Health's Radiologic Health Branch to Shaw's leadership stated:

"CDPH found numerous instances where Shaw failed to conduct and/or document radiation/contamination surveys .... It is apparent from these and previous violations that there is a lack of radiological oversight, practical hands-on experience with environmental radiological projects and methods, basic radiation technology experience, and/or a failure to include the Radiation Safety Officer in production management decisions that affect the radiological protection program at the Treasure Island project."

The letter further noted that Shaw's failure to properly calibrate and conduct performance tests on survey meters was "so serious that you must correct it immediately." The state has recently taken the rare step of assigning state inspectors to the Treasure Island site — a likely sign that it lacks confidence in the cleanup operations.

One of my sources shared a photograph from about five years ago showing a worker from Shaw using a backhoe loader to dump dirt that contained radium-226 into an open-bed truck. Some of the radioactive dirt got caught in the wind and spilled onto the road. The worker in the photo was not wearing protective equipment. The scene depicted in this photo is corroborated by internal Department of Public Health emails.

The concerns also extend to Shaw's technical procedures. According to emails and memos, Shaw used the island's Ninth Street Playground to establish a base-level reading for naturally occurring "background radiation." Yet laboratory analysis of the playground's soil indicated slightly elevated levels of thorium and radium-226. While the levels were not considered dangerous, the analysis brought into question Shaw's technical competence in choosing an elevated area as its basis for "background radiation." At an August 21 community meeting, Ryan Lee, an official from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, said that Shaw had used detection technology that was not sensitive enough, and consequently did not spot the initial error. Another site on Treasure Island is now being used for establishing background radiation.

Radiologic contamination has now been found on Treasure Island throughout a vast 93-acre area called Site 12. This site represents about 20 percent of the land where developers hope to build their new city. On the first days of digging at Site 12 in 2006, those dangerous octagonal metal disks were uncovered.

At a recent Treasure Island Restoration Advisory Board meeting, Shaw's Radiation Safety Monitor, Christine Donahue, told residents that the disks, which are also called foils or commodities, are actually not so dangerous. "High level is a relative term," she said. "You go to a hospital and you get an X-ray or a CAT scan — that can be considered high-level. It's far more damaging than picking up one of these radium foils. Even a visit to the dentist if you get a panoramic, it's much more than this foil."

A source involved in the cleanup expressed shock at Donahue's comment. The source said: "If a person were to hold one of these disks," the source said, "the annual exposure limit for the general public set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would likely be exceeded in less than an hour."

Many island residents mistakenly believe that radioactive contamination mostly comes from relatively harmless glow-in-the-dark buttons distributed during the 1939 and 1940 International Exposition. In fact, the mysterious metal disks represent the primary and generally most dangerous source of radioactive contamination on Treasure Island — and the Navy does not seem to know their original source.

James Sullivan, a civil engineer with no radiologic expertise contracted by the Navy to oversee the cleanup, said in an interview that the disks come from "a couple of sources," but he declined to be specific. Later, in an email statement, Sullivan confirmed that the Navy could only guess about the original source of these disks: "It appears that these disks were placed in a holding device to simulate different levels of radioactivity during training exercises which would be consistent with the Treasure Island training mission."

Unless the Navy can definitively explain why such large quantities of the disks have been discarded on the island and why they are allegedly confined only to certain areas, some health officials may push the Navy to "fully classify" Treasure Island. This is a technical term for testing and classifying every parcel of land for radioactive contamination, as opposed to testing only areas thought to be contaminated.

Comprehensive testing not only would be an exorbitantly expensive task, but also would invariably be plagued by the problem of high groundwater. Surface scans conducted by Shaw rarely identify the radioactive disks unless they are within six inches to a foot from the surface. "You can put very radioactive material in a foot of water and have difficulty detecting it," an unnamed source close to the cleanup told CalWatchdog's Anthony Pignataro in 2010. "There's just no way to know if the whole island is toxic."

During a tense and emotional August 21 Restoration Advisory Board meeting on the island, the Navy attempted to calm residents who were alarmed by what The Bay Citizen had published. Officials from the California Department of Public Health, which has been the most critical of the cleanup, were not present at the meeting. David Clark, the Navy's lead remedial project manager, promised to give residents "the information you need to make an informed decision." Officials from the Navy and Shaw repeatedly said, "There is no evidence to support that there are any human health risks on Treasure Island."

But their statements omitted crucial information.

During the meeting, I asked Clark how far the material inside the three shipments of highly dangerous radioactive material was from where people live, work, and play. Clark replied, to audible sounds of exasperation from the audience: "For those specific comments, we will get back to you. We want to get you the correct information, so we will take that as an action item and get specific answers to that."

Clark further assured residents, "There is no human health risk to residents or anyone at the Boys & Girls Club. ... All of [the sites] are monitored constantly for any exposure issues and the air is monitored as well. ... The state has reviewed that data — they are aware of it — and they have not seen any air issues from our radiation sites."

Clark did not mention that, until 2007, when the island cleanup came under state regulation, Shaw may have taken air samples at Site 31 for lead and PCB but not for radioactive material. It is therefore impossible to know if that air was safe for the children to breathe. Until pressed, he did not mention that this monitoring is conducted by Shaw, the same company that received notices of violation for unsafe conduct in other parts of its operation.

In response to residents' concerns about safe groundwater, Ryan Lee from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control said, "There is monitoring of the groundwater quality, and chemical analysis, as well as radiological analysis. Especially with the radiological analysis, there hasn't been any detection of radionuclides in the groundwater." Lee did not reveal that groundwater sampling for radionuclides has been conducted only since 2008 and only at Site 12.

Christine Donahue, Shaw's radiation safety officer, further comforted community members by saying that surface scans for radiologic materials are being carried out on the island. When pressed, however, she acknowledged the fact that these scans can generally reach only six inches to one foot due to high groundwater. She also told residents that the dirt at Site 31, across from the child development center, was not dangerous. "I could drape myself in that material," she said. "I could dribble it all over myself and I'd be okay, I promise."

In an email statement, officials from the Department of Toxic Substances Control, which has often defended the Navy's cleanup competence, declined to comment on Donahue's "dribble" remark. However, they noted that "the chemicals of concern [at Site 31] are lead, dioxin, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)." These three chemicals can be absorbed through the skin if "dribbled" all over oneself and can cause serious health problems — which is why workers wear Hazmat suits when dealing with them. The low-level radioactive material found at Site 31 cannot be absorbed through the skin but is dangerous if inhaled; the chances of inhalation would certainly increase if this dirt was dribbled all over oneself.

Shortly before the August 21 meeting, at about 6:15 p.m., I snapped photographs of the parking lot outside the Shaw offices at Site 570, where the more dangerous radioactive materials are stored. The signs on the storage boxes in this parking lot indicated that this is a "high radiation area." Under the guidelines of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, high radiation areas must be clearly marked and access to these areas must be "maintained under strict control."

Yet the gate to the parking lot was wide open and no workers were around. I watched two children ride by on bikes. During the Restoration Advisory Board meeting, I told Clark about this incident, and he said that kids would be safe outside the closed storage boxes. "Regular scanning shows that there's no contamination," he said. In an email statement in response to my question about this situation, the California Department of Public Health officials (CDPH) seemed to acknowledge that concern was warranted. They wrote: "CDPH has an open investigation of Site 570, which includes security and materials located there."

On August 17, 2010, then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Nancy Pelosi, and Navy Secretary Ray Mabus signed an "endorsement agreement" to transfer the island from the Department of Defense to the City of San Francisco. At the ceremony, Newsom called the Treasure Island plans "arguably the most environmentally friendly infill development in American history." As it turns out, this was not actually an official transfer. The real transfer depends on a stamp of approval from state health officials so the city cannot be held liable for public health problems.

California health officials will submit their comments on the Navy's latest draft report by September 5. They may call for the full classification of every inch of the island, which would take many years and cost millions more than initially anticipated. Some believe that all current residents should be moved off the island until the cleanup is completed, while others insist that residents can be kept safe through additional precautions.

But the latter group subscribes to a different definition of "safe" than the general public may realize — and different from what many scientists have concluded. A 2005 report by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that no level of exposure to radioactive materials is ever completely harmless. "The scientific research base shows that there is no threshold of exposure below which low levels of ionizing radiation can be demonstrated to be harmless or beneficial," the report stated. "The health risks — particularly the development of solid cancers in organs — rise proportionally with exposure."

Shaw Environmental left the gate open to an area where dangerous radioactive materials are stored [illegible]

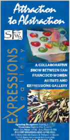
On Treasure Island, much remains to be seen. Will the development plans for the "premiere date-night locale" be stalled indefinitely? Will current residents of the island — the ones who may have inhaled unsafe air for years — be able to afford the rent on the island if and when it's cleaned up? Will politicians who pushed aggressively for Treasure Island development be challenged on what they did and did not know about the public health risk? Will other former military bases across the country come under closer scrutiny? (At Treasure Island, the Navy reports to the State of California, not the federal government; the emails obtained by Gantner show that the Navy's failures might never have surfaced without the interventions of these state health officials.) Will a cancer cluster analysis of former Treasure Island residents be conducted? Will a class-action lawsuit be pursued? Will officials from the Navy and Shaw ever be held accountable?

Many Treasure Island residents, meanwhile, are not staying silent. The most powerful part of the August 21 Restoration Advisory Board meeting was not the misleading statements by Navy and Shaw officials, but rather the resolve of residents to parse out the technical terminology, share their stories, and demand answers. "I'm trying to play it cool, but I'm kind of getting edgy," said Melanie Jones, a community leader who used to be homeless and has lived on the island with her kids since 1999. She also has long been an outspoken proponent of island development. "I came here to find out: Am I in danger? I need to know. I don't want to go around sugar-coating."

Multiple audience members said that they sensed a repeat of what's happened at Bayview-Hunters Point, a radiologically contaminated former Navy shipyard in which Lennar is deeply invested. A toxic underground fire broke out a few years ago in one of the most hazardous areas of concern at this site. It burned for weeks. "I used to work for the child welfare department up on 1800 Third Street in the Bayview, and I had a lot of families come through there sick from being up by the shipyard," one female audience member said. "And what I'm hearing tonight is basically the same BS that they got when they had to deal with it over there."

Two representatives from the Boys & Girls Club asked if their kids might be inhaling airborne radioactive dust. One Treasure Island resident noted that the EPA had similarly asserted that the air around the World Trade Center after 9/11 was safe — a claim that later proved to be false. Other residents shared stories about residents with health problems, including rashes, asthma, lupus, and cancer. Two audience members asked if a health survey had been conducted on current and past residents. It has not.

Kathryn Lundgren, the woman who told me that living on Treasure Island is "almost like economic slavery," left the August 21 meeting early in tears. Lundgren's 12-year-old daughter, who I'll call Mandy (she asked that her real name not be used), has lupus, constant rashes



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Kathryn Lundgren saved floodwater that kids played in after that flowed from radioactive sites.

and at least four ovarian cysts that cause her enormous pain. Mandy was to have exploratory surgery the next day to determine possible causes. An audience member read Lundgren's question from a piece of paper: she wanted to know the results of swab tests for toxins that had been conducted in her home five years ago.

The week following the meeting, I met with Kathryn Lundgren at her American flag-draped apartment at 1201 Bayside Drive. The Lundgren's three-bedroom home — which houses Kathryn, her husband Eric, Mandy, and two older siblings — sits less than one block from a former Bayside Drive dig site, one of two places in Site 12 where many of those dangerous radioactive disks were found.

All of her family members have suffered unusual health issues, and Lundgren said she would not have moved here in 2005 if she had known what she knows now. "I just took their word for it that it wasn't harmful, that the levels weren't going to affect you, that [the radioactivity] was just in little buttons," she said. "I feel they violated my lease. I didn't agree to the [contaminated] stuff that was added to my environment or to the stuff that was already here but they didn't reveal."

Lundgren told me about the day — she thinks it was in 2007 — when two scientists came into her home to take swab tests. "They came in fully suited — white suits, face masks, goggles, gloves — and took samples of the dust in the windows and the dust around here, the bathroom, everywhere," she recalled. "They didn't give me the company they worked for. They didn't tell me where to find the results. And I never heard anything else about it. … I need to know the results of those tests."

Since that incident, Lundgren has resolved to take her own tests, but she's not sure where to start. She recently emailed famed environmental activist Erin Brockovich. In a jar under her sink, Lundgren has water samples she took from a flood that happened in early April. The floodwater came across radioactive sites to within about a half block from her home. Local kids and dogs were playing in the water. "Do you know anyone who could test this water?" she asked.

On the ceiling of Lundgren's living room are blue stars and heart-shaped clouds made from construction paper. Lundgren added these decorations for Mandy, who wanted to have something pretty to look at while she lay on the couch in severe pain from her cysts, which currently range in size from 0.7 centimeters to three centimeters. One of these cysts grew to the size of a tennis ball earlier this year and then shrunk. Last year Mandy missed almost six weeks of school due to her health problems.

At the recent Restoration Advisory Board meeting, Lundgren felt that Navy officials were condescending toward her and were spreading misinformation. "They talked about the extremely high amounts [of radioactive material] which I'm assuming were removed from the end of my street," she said. "So it may be coincidental, but you're driving in people's homes and you don't have covered trucks, and you know that it's that highly contaminated and the dust is flowing into our windowsills."

As for Mandy, she's a tough, upbeat girl with curly blond hair who speaks with a maturity beyond her years. She is now back home from her exploratory surgery and trying to catch up on her homework. She took me on a tour to see the multiple "sink holes" that have formed right outside her home — a reflection of the island's loose soil and susceptibility to liquefaction during an earthquake. One of the holes, now covered with grass, used to be about three feet deep. "I saw kids sliding down into it with cardboard boxes," Mandy said.

She also shared a memory from when she was only five years old and her family was meeting with the rental agency to sign their lease. "They were like, 'You can't dig here, kids,'" she recalled. "And I was like, 'But isn't that what kids are gonna do? They're gonna dig in the ground. What if we hit something that's bad for kids? And kids eat it. And kids can get sick. And that's bad too.' Kids are gonna be kids."

When this article went to press, Kathryn Lundgren was waiting for the results of Mandy's biopsies. It is possible that her cysts are harmless and will go away on their own. Cancer is also a possibility. "That scares me and her so she doesn't really talk about it much," Lundgren said. "And we don't talk about it because she needs to be a kid." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

A Decidedly Special Delivery

A West Berkeley warehouse gets transformed temporarily into a three-story graffiti mural

When Alan Varela bought an abandoned West Berkeley building for his construction company, it turned out he got much more than a decrepit 36,000-square-foot warehouse. In fact, when Varela saved the long vacant property from possible demolition in February, he became the new owner of one of the local graffiti community's best-kept secrets. Since 1998, when the ink company that had long occupied the site ceased operations, graffiti artists have been using the interior as an illegal canvas — so much so that by the time Varela showed up, the interior walls were thoroughly splattered and sprayed with the colorful scribbles of countless street artists.

Special Delivery Endless Canvas

Where some might have seen a major eyesore and a costly clean-up, Varela — an art lover who sits on the Oakland Museum of California's board of trustees — saw a gem. "There was incredible art on some of the walls, and I wanted to preserve it," he said. "Rather than saying, 'We bought the building, you're out of here,' I said, 'Let's look at it from a different perspective.'" Varela was able to track down Paul (who asked that his last name not be used), co-founder of the ubiquitous street art blog and 'zine *Endless Canvas*, to propose that he assemble painters to create some final pieces inside the building before it was refurbished.

It turned out to be a fortuitous offer. Last year, *Endless Canvas* documentarians curated a graffiti mural exhibit called *Special Delivery* that blanketed the walls of a 5,000-square-foot warehouse in Portland. Paul suggested using the West Berkeley warehouse to host a more expansive iteration that allowed artists to paint every inch of the three-story building's interior, which would then be photographed and published in book form. Varela agreed, and for the past few months, more than one hundred Bay Area graffiti artists — including writers like Nosie, Del Piccolo, and members of the LORDS crew — have been creating a public exhibition in their once-renegade venue. Old pieces that had faded or fallen victim to rogue taggers have been refurbished, new ones have been added, and graffiti now fills nearly every inch of wall space.

For the artists who spent years scaling fences and squeezing through windows to paint the old warehouse, it's been a bittersweet endeavor. After all, once the exhibit closes, the graffiti will be washed away and Berkeley will lose a beloved, albeit secret landmark. "I would prefer that it stayed an active, illegal spot," Paul lamented, "but it got to a point where the building would either be demolished or become offices. We are sad to see it go — and that's why we're throwing it a good bye art show." *Special Delivery Bay Area 2012* debuts at a free and all-ages event on Saturday, September 8, from 6 p.m. to midnight, featuring live hip-hop from Ear Force Records and vinyl tunes by DJ Moggy Stardust. The warehouse can subsequently be viewed from noon to 7 p.m. on Sundays through September. In part to ensure the anonymity of the artists, the building's address won't be revealed until it's posted on EndlessCanvas.com the day before the exhibit opens.

— *Cassie McFadden*

ATTRACTIONS

Fun on the Farm: Laundry Day With activities illustrating the history of cleaning fabrics and the tools used to make the job easier. Wear clothes that can get wet. Sat., Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3280.

KSW Runway A runway show highlighting fashion collections from the emerging Asian Pacific American designers. Sat., Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m., $15-$25. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Oakland Walking Tour: City Center With a tour of turn-of-the-century landmarks like the Beaux Arts-style City Hall and Rotunda Building, the Tribune Tower, and the Art Deco-style Financial Center building. To RSVP: 510-238-3234 or ASAtours@oaklandnet.com. Sat., Sept. 8, 10 a.m., Wed., Oct. 10, 10 a.m., free. City Hall Plaza, 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Oakland Walking Tour: Uptown at the Lake A tour of the Uptown District with an emphasis on Art Deco. Includes lobby of the Paramount and Fox theaters, the Kaiser Center roof garden, and more. To RSVP: 510-238-3234 or ASAtours@oaklandnet.com. Wed., Sept. 12, 10 a.m.; Sat., Oct. 13, 10 a.m., free. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Paramount Movies: Kaiser Classics With a raffle, live organ music, and a screening of *An American Werewolf in London* on 35mm. Fri., Sept. 7, 7 p.m., $5. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Sexy Fashion Show Featuring back-to-school and other fall looks. Plus live music by Man magic Man and 10 percent off all merchandise. Thu., Sept. 6, 8-10 p.m., free. Sway, 3268 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-251-5840.

Waterfront Flicks With a Oakland screening of *Fatal Attraction*, preceded by kids games, and food and drink for sale from the East Bay Bike Coalition. Thu., Sept. 6, free. Market Lawn at Jack London Square, Water Street, outside 55 Harrison St., Oakland. JackLondonSquare.com.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

9/11 Truth Film Festival 2012: An Exploration of Deep Events With films and filmmakers, plus speakers including Peter Dale Scott, discussing events including the Oakland bombing of activist Judi Bari, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the London bombings. Tue., Sept. 11, 2-11 p.m., $7-$20. SPRINTtruth.org. Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-451-3556. RenaissanceRialto.com/current_grandlake.htm.

Bay Area Black Expo With health, job, homeowner and job resources; interviews with actors Darrin Henson, Mario Van Peebles, and Beth I. Knight; a Sunday gospel celebration hosted by Smitha Phil; food, entertainment, and more. Sat., Sept. 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., $5-$8. BayAreaBlackExpo.com. Oakland Convention Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland. 510-238-1795. OaklandCVB.com.

Community Action Fair With representatives from local educational, health, arts, housing, and social justice organizations displaying their work and volunteer opportunities. Thu., Sept. 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Filipino Fest With comedy by Joey Guila, live music by FilOramamols, Filipino singer and dancer Amber Lily, and Filipino food trucks, and $1 beers and hot dogs. Sun., Sept. 9, 1-5 p.m., $8. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Gorta Gayles Festival With music, dancing, crafts, old-fashioned games, and junior games. Sat., Sept. 8, 12-4 p.m., and Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Park, 1320 Garin

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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the Express for more information on East Bay art showings.

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday, September 7th.

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

Redux Studio & Galleries
2315 Lincoln Ave

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave.

BERKELEY

Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave.

Urbanity
1887 Solano Ave

OAKLAND

4707 Gallery
4707 Telegraph

57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave

Anna Edwards Gallery
232 East 14th St.

Actual Café
4334 San Pablo Ave

Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave

Back Zoo
14 Glen Ave.

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

The Compound Gallery
1167 65th St

The Crucible's Cathedral Gallery
1815 Broadway

Forthright Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave

Gamma Space
6608 San Pablo Ave.

Hatch
492 23rd St.

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St

Kuhl Frames + Art
412 22nd St.

The Layover
1517 Franklin St.

Liraille
2300 Piedmont Ave

IDAKal Gallery
1425 Broadway Ave

LoBot Gallery
1800 Campbell St.

Lukas Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

Macarthur Barber
4030 MLK Way

Paradise Lounge
2272 Telegraph Ave.

RAW Gallery
1951 Telegraph Ave.

Red Door Gallery
416 26th St

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave.

Rooz Café
1618 Park Blvd.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery
4231 Telegraph

Smokey's Tangle
4799 Telegraph Ave.

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St

Sticks + Stones
615 Broadway

Studio One Art Center
365 45th St

The Sweet(h)Art

Drawing Gallery
6602 San Pablo Ave.

Tech Liminal
268 14th St.

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave

OAKLAND ART MURMUR

Gallery One Gallery & Shop
1604 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave.

Classic Cars West
411 26th St

Creative Growth
355 24th St

Crown Nine Jewelers and Makers
461A 9th St

Era Art Bar
18 Grand Ave

Farley's East
33 Grand Avenue

FM Gallery
483 25th St

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave between Broadway and Valley

The Hive
301 Jefferson St.

Johansson Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave

Krowswork Gallery
480 23rd St.

Manna Gallery
473 25th Street, Suite B

Merlen & Rose's Workshop
841 95th St

Mercury 20
475 25th St.

The Moon
887 25th St.

Oaklandish
1444 Broadway

Oakopolis
447 25th St.

Photo
873 25th St

ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Rea Ipsa
455 17th St., 3rd Floor

Rococo Ceramic Gallery
873 25th Street, Suite 5

Shadravana Art Gallery
2455 Telegraph Ave

SLATE Contemporary
873 25th St.

Studio Quercus
385 26th St.

Swarm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St.

Telegraph
2318 Telegraph Ave

Urban Legend Cellars
621 4th St

Vessel Gallery
471 25th St.

The Wall Gallery
473 25th St.

Warehouse 416
416 26th St

SAN LEANDRO

UrbanSpace Gallery
611 Washington St

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to Promotions@EastBayExpress.com to be included in the October directory.

EAST BAY EXPRESS

TRUMER PILS

PICKS

Children's Hospital Centennial

For as many young patients as Children's Hospital Oakland has treated over the years, the institution itself is getting quite old. The hospital turned one hundred this year, and it commemorates the milestone with a centennial celebration at Children's Fairyland (699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland) on Saturday, Sept. 8. Considering the hospital's demographic, it's no surprise that the party is truly one for the kids, with a rock wall for climbing, a marching band-backed parade, a "funny face" photo booth, pedal-powered smoothie making, birthday cupcakes, and oodles of live performances, including puppet shows and storytelling. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., $10-$100. 510-408-3567 or 100AmazingYears.org. — *Carrie McFadden*

Stride with Pride

If you're still feeling LGBTQ love after last week's slew of Pride events, put on your party hat and saddle up to Golden Gate Fields (1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley) on Saturday, Sept. 8 for a Pride celebration with an equestrian vibe. In between the day's horse races, the track's Stride with Pride event includes a "presentation of colors" ceremony by the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association, the national anthem performed by the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, free themed bets for the first five hundred spectators, and a space to dance and mingle to tunes by DJ Kidd Sysko. Noon, $12-$40, 510-559-7300 or GoldenGateFields.com. — *C.M.*

Ave., Hayward, 510-881-6700, EBParks.org/Parks/Garin.htm.

Lemonade Fiesta A lemonade lovers fair on Webster Avenue with more than 500 vendors, a traditional pancake Alameda, a [illegible] parade, art, food, and much more. Sun., Sept. 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. [illegible]Avenue[illegible].org.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

[illegible] from the Hive: Alameda, Regency, with Honey, Alameda, and Oakland. [illegible] Herbal Center [illegible] people Rebecca [illegible] hosts a workshop exploring the healing agents of and by-products [illegible]. Wed., Sept. 12, 6-8:30 p.m., $60 for both, $35 for each. [illegible].com. Sticky Art Lab, 1682 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-1140. StickyArtLab.com.

Prostate Play and Pleasure Workshop [illegible] Gluckman, Ph.D. [illegible] toys and tips for prostate play. Fri., Sept. 8, 7-9 p.m., free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8987. GoodVibes.com.

Alameda, Is Wellness, Community Well-Care [illegible] with innovative workshops and discussions to glean perspectives from different viewpoints from the health [illegible]. Sun., Sept. 9, 4 p.m., $12. [illegible].com. [illegible] Hall, 1870 Oakland St., Berkeley.

KIDS

Children's Oakland, Oakland Centennial Celebration Total performances by MYPG Local Scene artists, readings by local children's authors, [illegible], and more. Sat., Sept. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., $10-$100. 100AmazingYears.org. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Foster Care and Adoption Info Workshop Open to all prospective [illegible]. Tue., Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m., free. AASK. [illegible] 2131 Edgewater Dr., Ste. 100, Oakland. 510-553-1748, x12. AASK.org.

Kindergym With free play and a structured activity circle for kids under 3. Thu., Sept. 8, 11:15 a.m.-noon, $1-$6. [illegible] Alameda, 321 [illegible], Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

LGBT

Prance with Pride With the national anthem sung by Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, the presentation of colors by the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association, a spin with [illegible] by DJ Kidd Sysko, and the races [illegible]. Sat., Sept. 8, noon, $12. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Therapy Tea Dance and [illegible] With dancing and flirting for women who love women. Second Saturday of every month, 5-9 p.m., $5. [illegible].com. [illegible] Bar and Lounge, 10 Grand Ave., Oakland. OaklandEta.com.

Queers in Progress: Open Mic for Queers Featuring poetry, music, and comedy by Liz Bevilaqua, [illegible], Laura [illegible], Taquana, [illegible], Giovanna Capone, [illegible] Allen, and more. Sat., Sept. 8, 6:30-10:30 p.m., $8-$10. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 424 Monte Vista Ave., Oakland. 510-654-5390. PlymouthOakland.org.

PETS

Adoptions at Hollandi & Co. With dogs and cats available for adoption from the East Bay SPCA. Second Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. EastBaySPCA.org. [illegible] & Co., 6025 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-428-9638. [illegible]Co.com.

Feral Cat Foundation Adoptions With [illegible] cats [illegible] for adoption. Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. FeralCatFoundation.org. Pet Food Express, North Oakland, 6398 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-923-8580. PetFoodExpress.com.

Free Dog Advice Thursdays Get advice on house training your puppy, grooming [illegible] or knowing when you need to go to the vet. Leave your dog in your car until [illegible]. Consults are limited to five minutes, or on time. [illegible] Thursdays, 5-8 p.m., free. Paco Collars, 2985 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7226. PacoCollars.com.

Rabbit Adoptions With rabbits available for adoption from Oakland Animal Services. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. OaklandAnimalServices.org. Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2601 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-864-2230. PetFoodExpress.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Art & the Cart of Eta Learn the [illegible] of [illegible] mixing and composition, with paintings, to drink wine and socialize. Participants take home a finished painting. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 6, $30. 510-482-1444. ArtistsCanReason.com. Eta Art Bar and Lounge, 10 Grand Ave., Oakland. OaklandEta.com.

Berkeley Underground Film Society Join the film club for screenings of films, [illegible] and films around and shorts. This week: *The Last Picture Show* (1971) in 16mm w/ sound. Meets at 708 Gilman St., Berkeley. Sun., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m., donations accepted. BerkeleyUndergroundFilmSociety.blogspot.com.

Bicycle Bingo Vanilla Sue hosts a weekly bingo game with prizes, to raise funds for various nonprofits. This week's game raises funds for East Alameda [illegible]. Thursdays, 1-8 p.m., $3-$10. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8386. ActualCafe.com.

More Listings Online
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at EastBayExpress.com
or at EastBayExpress.com

The Hookup Lounge Stop by to make people and maybe even real connections. Thu., Sept. 6, 8-10 p.m., free. Fearnow510, 1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-1698. Fearnow510.com.

Movie Trivia Night Bay Area Bike[illegible] Camp presents a monthly all-ages music trivia night, whereby teams of 5-8 test their knowledge in song clues, bonus about art, and more. Ten percent of the cafe's sales during event benefit the camp. First Friday of every month, 8 p.m. Alameda, [illegible] accepted. 510-267-8308. [illegible]Camp.org. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8386. ActualCafe.com.

Playland After Dark: Speed-up Game Night Play vintage arcade, pinball, and tennis games. No kids at Dessert. Second [illegible] of every month, 6-10 p.m., $10. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. PlaylandNotattheBeach.org.

SF Alameda, [illegible] Casual, [illegible] from fast dancing to world funk, down tempo, and other ear-friendly music. Berkeley and [illegible] Sundays, 1:30-11 p.m., $8-$15. SF[illegible].com. [illegible] Street Moon, 2520 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-529-5155.

Singles Salsa Swing and Dance Party Adults of all ages welcome. Dress sight[illegible] required. At Rubu [illegible] (3411 Lanell St., Walnut Creek). Sat., Sept. 8, 8-11 p.m., $20-$30. 415-507-9087. ThePartyHotline.com. [illegible] Gallery, 2315 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-865-1109. SWAP-Alameda.org.

Bike St. Art House Day with art supplies [illegible] for anyone [illegible], to create a project. Fri., Sept. 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. http://ArtBrink.com. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Bike Ogawa [illegible] Fix a Flat An REI bike technician demonstrates how to fix a flat tire. Sat., Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-noon, free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Bike to Oakland With people [illegible], safety adjustments, and fix-a-flat demos, plus bike [illegible] registration and Yuba Cargo Bike rentals, provided by Bay Area [illegible]. Second Sunday of every month, free. [illegible].com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Broadway and Embarcadero, Oakland.

Dart Tournament First Thursday of every month, 7-9:30 p.m. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com.

Dragon Boat Express Join the [illegible] Dragon Flyers for free introductory dragon boating. [illegible] Equipment provided. Meets at 2420 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda. Saturdays, 8:45-10:30 a.m., free. 510-521-7565. AlamedaDragonFlyers.org.

East Bay Moms Hike With a hike through the Redwood Street Inn. Sept. 7, 10 a.m., free. EastBayMoms.com. Alameda. Redwood Park, 1807 Redwood Rd., Oakland. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Golden Spokes Lake Oakland Night Bike Weekly off-road mountain bike rides [illegible] Oakland by [illegible] and beverages. Bicycle Lights required. Riders of all skill levels. Alameda. Contact [illegible] for more [illegible]. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17930 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley. 510-247-2526. EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

East Pitch Champion Softball League With weekly adult softball games. Saturdays, 12-2:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 21, free. 510-204-9300. Montclair Ball Field, 6300 Moraga Ave., Oakland. 510-482-1812.

Fight Club Play old school fighting video games like *Soul Calibur* and *Street Fighter*, with a tournament at 1:30 p.m. Tournament game determined by participants. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., $2. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

Get-Fit Thursdays Lee Mills hosts an outdoor workout session for all levels, with lessons in cardio, strength, and martial arts. At the foot of Broadway in Jack London Square, Oakland. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Sept. 20, free. 415-733-0787. JackLondonSquare.com.

Hooping with hoopdancing for people of all ages. Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible]Hooping[illegible].com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Broadway and Embarcadero, Oakland.

Pickleball A fast-paced game combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and volleyball. For all ages and [illegible] levels. Played on the indoor courts Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., $3-$5, $2 people [illegible] 510-559-1250. AlbanyCa.org. [illegible] New Field, 900 Buchanan St., Albany.

Pub Quiz Trivia Sundays, 7:30 p.m., free. Swell Bar, 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-6263. SwellBarAlameda.com.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Audio Word Vs. Ghost Oakland Sat., Sept. 8, 5 p.m., $25-$300. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Golden Gate Fields Dollar Days With dollar hot dogs and other [illegible] delights. Sundays, $1. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Oakland Raiders Versus the San Diego Chargers. Mon., Sept. 10, 7:15 p.m., $56-$181. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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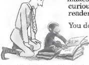

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DIRECTIONS

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Barry McGee's Memorials

The Mission School artist reprises past installations for his first ever mid-career survey at the Berkeley Art Museum

The museum can abide street art, but can street art abide the museum? After all, the two seem a bit mismatched. Graffiti is about disrupting the city's prevailing system of visual real estate and staking a space for the marginalized individual on surfaces that would otherwise efface her. At heart, it is a declaration of "I exist." Meanwhile, the museum presents itself as an ostensibly accommodating space, wiped clean of visual clutter for the express purpose of showcasing and celebrating the artist. How then to bring so-called street art into such a space without it immediately flatlining?

McGee's animatronic robots are kitschy

Barry McGee, who has by now spent a good deal of his career in sanctioned exhibition spaces across the globe, is fully aware of this conundrum. In fact, one can view his recent work, which goes far beyond graffiti, as the product of it. McGee eschews "art objects" in favor of sprawling installations. Whether through bulging, site-specific clusters of photographs and drawings, incredibly detailed reproductions of street corner bodegas, turned over cars and animatronic taggers, or simply piles of friends' work, McGee attempts to make room for street art in the gallery by overrunning it with elements of the street itself.

For his first ever mid-career survey, McGee takes over the main floor and two wings of the Berkeley Art Museum with reprises of these past installations, retailored for the space at hand, as well as a few new works. His doleful, down-and-out male characters appear in droves; a bodega variant is there too. A vertically planted Astro van supports four piggybacking mannequins, the highest of which robotically waves a can of spray paint as though to tag one of the museum's balcony walls.

The exhibition's tone winds up falling between two poles, the first of which is holiness. McGee panels the first-floor wing with rusted letterpress trays, some of which frame the sublimed visages of his drawn figures, in effect transforming the space into an icon-laden shrine of sorts. On the opposite wall, one of McGee's old cargo jackets, stuffed with clandestine spray-paint bottles, hangs cross-like. Beyond, a patchy tarp bears the spray-painted image of a scrawny nude clutching an orb that appears to be ascending heavenward. Such quasi religious imagery — shrines, icons, martyrs, memorials — reappears throughout the show, uncertainly suggesting a sanctity in street art.

In grinding contrast with this reverential aura, McGee's animatronic robots (some realistic, others in the form of wood-cut tiki taggers) usher in the opposite pole: kitsch. If McGee was aiming to convey the liveliness of the graffiti act through these rigid, corpse-like robots, he achieved the perfect opposite. If he was going for tongue-in-cheek, he severely overshot it, and the museum's main floor acquires the flavor of an object Disneyland in consequence. Given a museum, McGee winds up emphasizing two of the institution's least neutral personalities: chapel and mausoleum.

Barry McGee runs through December 9 at the Berkeley Art Museum (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu

— Alex Bigman

ART GALLERIES

[illegible], Border and Memories With paintings by [illegible] Alvarado, [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Sept. 9.

1947 Center Street Lobby Gallery: [illegible] and Features of Life: Water Has Earth With colorful photography and abstract paintings by [illegible]. Through Oct. 26. 1947 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-1089.

Addison Street Windows Gallery: [illegible] Project: [illegible] With photographs by [illegible]. Through Sept. 25. 2018 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-981-7540.

Addison: [illegible] Window, [illegible] A [illegible] exhibit featuring mixed-media works mapping the artist's physical locations [illegible] psychological and emotional [illegible]. Through Dec. 31, 2013. 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley. [illegible]

Albany Community Center Arts Foyer Gallery: The Painting is the Story With large acrylic paintings by Lary VanDeusen. Through Oct. 2. [illegible]. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9283. AlbanyCA.org.

The Alley at Temescal Square: First Friday @ Temescal Square With monthly art shows, artisanal food, live local music, plus a showcase of independently owned shops. First Friday of every month, 6-10 p.m. 410-482 49th St., Oakland.

Bedford Gallery: Captured: Specimens in Contemporary Art With works by 25 artists exploring the mystery and unexpected dialogues occurring at the intersection of art and science. Sept. 6-Nov. 18. **Captured: Specimens in Contemporary Art** With works addressing the changing nature of our relationship with the natural world. Sept. 6-Nov. 18. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Beauty The annual juried exhibition features works by [illegible]. Through Sept. 8. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Betti Ono Gallery: [illegible] With mixed-media by [illegible]. "[illegible]" Days. Sept. 7-Oct. 13. 1427 Broadway, Oakland. 510-473-0099. BettiOno.com.

[illegible] Contemporary Works in Gender A sculpture installation with works by 12 [illegible] artists, including [illegible]. 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Bullseye Gallery: [illegible] of Painterly Glass A group exhibition surveying the current [illegible] of painting with glass. With works by [illegible], Michael Janis, Martha Pfanschmidt, Ted Sawyer, Abi Spring, and Jeff Wallin. Through Oct. 20. 4514 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-595-1318. BullseyeGlass.com.

Caffe 817: Transfigurations With photographs by Arthur Aceves. Sept. 1-30. 817 Washington St., Oakland. 510-271-7965. Caffe817.com.

Capoeira Mandinga Academy: Capoeira: Roots, Myths and Legends With 16 paintings symbolizing capoeira's history by Anna Ludwig. Sept. 1-Aug. 31. 4131 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-8287. Mandinga.org.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: Cumulous With sculptures by Sandra Ono and paintings by [illegible], Lisa Espenmiller and Danielle Mysliwiec, all of which explore the use of cumulative capture in various media. Through Sept. 28. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

CR Gallery: The Elephant in the Room With works by dozens of local artists addressing "forbidden subject matters we usually don't talk about." Through Sept. 1. **Face Lore** With works exploring [illegible] and [illegible] by Emmy Award-winning illustrator James Gayles and artist Lorraine Bonner. Sept. 8-22. 4125 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-759-2538. CRGallery.org.

[illegible]: [illegible] Art Show The annual exhibit features works by artists with developmental disabilities, part of the Clausen House's art program. Sept. 1-Oct. 1. 650 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-268-4663. ClausenHouse.org.

The Compound Gallery & Studios: Group Exhibition Through Sept. 30. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-601-1200. TheCompoundGallery.com.

PICKS

Wall Works 4

For the final show in Traywick Contemporary's fifteenth anniversary series, Katrina Traywick invited four artists to contribute site-specific work addressing the possibilities and constraints of her North Berkeley home-cum-gallery. The results, I am pleased to add, playfully flirt with and subvert this mid-century venue's pull toward the decorative. Nancy Mintz occupies the central space with landscapes upholstered for the living room — as weirdly lit. Where a chandelier of cut crystal might hang, she instead suspends a fuzzy moon. Diana Guerrero-Maciá adorns the hallway with two wool-covered canvases that "speak" to one another, each echoing the modernist traditions of abstract geometry while undercutting it with sappy universal symbols: a rainbow here, a heart there. In a dynamic formal interface with Traywick's architectural space, Barbara Gaertner's vaguely organic vinyl collage work creeps, shoots, and blooms across the foyer, bringing the bones of the structure to life. *Wall Works 4* runs through September 29 at Traywick Contemporary (895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley). 510-527-1214 or Traywick.com — *Alex Bigman*

Detail of Nancy Mintz's "Lunation."

Beauty

This year's juried exhibition at the Berkeley Art Center, *Beauty*, offers a wide and rich, if thinly spread, survey on the theme. Twenty-five artists, most exhibiting only one piece, twist, intensify, and debunk the concept of "beauty." In Matthew Gottschalk's "20 of People Magazine's Most Beautiful People 2012," the viewer has the rare pleasure of being able to handle and flip through the artist's acrylic portraits, the celebrity subjects of which look as bland as they do strange. Mimi Plumb captures a conventionally attractive woman with a fashion photography approach, while across the way a drag queen in church (Neil Reyes) counts a coquettish glance, giving the other subject a run for her money. Other artists approach beauty more obliquely, as with Sonja Schenk's "Landfill" — a drawing of a road disintegrating along a vertical, with an actual hunk of cement and plaster hanging serenely beside it. *Beauty* runs through September 9 at Berkeley Art Center (1275 Walnut St., Berkeley). 510-644-6893 or BerkeleyArtCenter.org — *A.B.*

[illegible] Gallery, First Friday Series Featuring work by [illegible]. First Friday of every month. 6 p.m. 1618 Pine St., Oakland. 510-451-4681.

Creative Growth Art Center: Fanatic With work by Creative Growth artists, depicting and dedicated to [illegible] stars, athletes, and other idols. Through Sept. 21. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

[illegible] Through Sept. 8. **[illegible]** With sculptural [illegible] on display. Sept. 7-Oct. 3. 481 9th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com

[illegible] College, Center Art of Visual Art: [illegible] [illegible] College's first public exhibition features original [illegible] paintings, [illegible], lithographs, silkscreen illustrations and world reproductions, along with original photographs of [illegible] and other art works. Through Sept. 30. 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]College.com

FLOAT [illegible] Center and Art Gallery: [illegible] With visual media by Alice [illegible] and skate decks by [illegible]. Sept. 8-Oct. 28. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com

[illegible] of East Asian Studies: [illegible]: Children's Garden of Life With drawings of scenes from daily life by Japanese school children [illegible], the Oakland [illegible], which were sent as a thank-you gift to the All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C. for the aid it had provided them. Through Sept. 12. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-6336. IEAS.berkeley.edu.

Museum of [illegible] Art: Off The Wall With [illegible] by [illegible]. Sept. 1-Nov. 6. 3001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-432-9909. [illegible]Art.com

Lovemore Gallery: [illegible] The [illegible] gallery's inaugural exhibition [illegible] the concept of interface in [illegible] and engaging ways with works by [illegible], [illegible] paintings, [illegible], [illegible], and Kelly [illegible]. Through Sept. 30. **Art as Interface: A Conversation with [illegible] Professors [illegible] and The Forum** The [illegible] how art can serve as an essential tool for [illegible] creators and audience, and explore the relationship between personal and artistic "practice." Sun., Sept. 9, 1-3 p.m. 480 [illegible] St., Oakland. [illegible]Gallery.com

[illegible] Projects, Back [illegible] With [illegible] by various [illegible]. Through Oct. 8. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-0140. [illegible].com.

Julia's [illegible] and [illegible] With drawings of [illegible], robots, [illegible], and [illegible] by [illegible], Adam [illegible], Patrick O'Connell, [illegible], Matthew Peyro, Joe Connolly, and Sandra Conner. Sept. 8-Nov. 6. 1773 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. [illegible]

Kala Art Institute: [illegible] With works in a variety of media by Kala Art Institute-affiliated artists including Luca Antonucci, Carrie Hott, Mary Anne Kluth, Robin McCloskey, Annie McCane, Nora Pauwels, Bob [illegible], and more. Through Sept. 15. **Kala Residency Projects** With works by Michele Carlson, Randy Colosky, Alison OK Frost, Seth [illegible], Vanessa Marsh, Sandra [illegible], Lauren [illegible], and Gail Wight. Through Sept. 15. **Print + [illegible]: An Atmospheric Survey of Print [illegible] In Contemporary Art** Christian L. Frock presents a broad survey of the strategic use of print media as a form of [illegible] by contemporary studio in [illegible] and digital realms. Wed., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] paintings: [illegible] With [illegible] and drawings depicting [illegible] in Oakland. Through Sept. 14. 3018 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]Gallery.org.

[illegible] Gallery: The Full [illegible] and Phoenix & Market [illegible] of [illegible] With new works by Allison [illegible], Cynthia Tran, Jacqueline [illegible], and [illegible]. Sept. 7-28. 1525 Webster St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]Colors.org.

[illegible] Gallery 1040 With site-specific installations focused on [illegible] rendered through algorithmic computer-generated modeling by [illegible] Hall. Sept. 6-Oct. 13. 1341 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Albany. [illegible].com.

MacArthur B Arthur: [illegible] With work by Johanna [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and Joseph [illegible]. Curated by [illegible], and Aaron Harbour. Sept. 1-30. [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible]. MacArthurBArthur.com.

Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts: I Am America, Black Genealogy Through the Eye of An Artist A traveling exhibit commemorating the black [illegible] and [illegible] who contributed to the history of America immediately before, during, and after the Civil War. Through Sept. 28. 1428 Alice St., Oakland. 510-238-7219. MECATheater.com.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] With acrylic paintings by Mark Lightfoot. Through Sept. 29. **[illegible]** With oil paintings by Wayne Armstrong. Through Sept. 29. 4132 [illegible], Oakland. 510-282-3335. [illegible]Gallery.com

[illegible] & [illegible] Workshop, the [illegible] With works by Victoria Wagner employing oil and spray paint on wood panel, hand-cut and planed [illegible] and digital silkscreen on cotton to evoke feelings from tragic to triumphant. Through Sept. 1. 491 9th St., Oakland. 510-238-6794. [illegible].com

[illegible]: An [illegible] Trumpet, [illegible] and Figures With photographs and text works created as a personal response to the [illegible] The Hearing [illegible] by artist Anne [illegible]. Sept. 6-Oct. 20. **Surplus!** With works culled from Chris [illegible]'s digital archive of film sound effects. Sept. 8-Oct. 20. 1771 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

[illegible] Through Sept. [illegible] With [illegible] geometric paintings and assemblages [illegible] witty and evocative found objects by [illegible]. Through Sept. 8. **[illegible]** With drawings on fine paper [illegible] by Arthur Huang.

[illegible] at [illegible] sculpture by Patricia [illegible] paintings by Tara [illegible], and more. Through Sept. 8. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7735. MercuryTwenty.com

Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts: [illegible] Art Sale With paintings, drawings, sculpture and prints for sale by artists including Ariel, Charles Peter, Kevin [illegible], [illegible] Lynn, Ruth [illegible], [illegible], Jerry Saul, and more. Sept. 6-9, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. 1841 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-8201. MythosFineArt.com.

NIAD Art Center: Trading Works A group show featuring works by NIAD's studio staff and artists, who selected each other's artwork for display in the exhibit. Through Nov. 2. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADart.org.

Oakopolis Gallery: [illegible] With [illegible] by Judy Levit and [illegible] Jones, and [illegible] sculpture and poetry by Vicki Gunter. Through Sept. 22. 447 25th St., Oakland. 510-839-0078. Oakopolis.org.

Philz Coffee: [illegible] Photographs & [illegible] Art An exhibit of Cuban folk art and murals. Through Sept. 30. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. PhilzCoffee.com.

PHOTO [illegible] With [illegible] photographs by [illegible], John [illegible], [illegible], Henry [illegible], Jon Camp, Eric Roberts, [illegible], John [illegible], Cay Lang, Irene Vlahos, and Whitney [illegible]. Through Sept. 29. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-451-4542. PHOTOGalleryOakland.com.

PhotoCentral Gallery and Darkroom: [illegible] Then and Now With original vintage [illegible] of the Golden Gate Bridge by photographer William E. Taylor. Through Sept. 29. 1099 E St., Hayward. 510-881-6721. PhotoCentral.org.

Pro Arts Gallery: 2 x 2 Solos: Amy M. Ho Solo exhibition of new work, curated by [illegible]. Artists reception on Friday, Sept. 7, 6-8 p.m. Through Oct. 6. **2 x 2 Solos: Lordy Rodriguez** Solo exhibition of new work, curated by Eric Murphy. Artists reception on Friday, Sept. 7, 6-8 p.m. Through Oct. 6. **[illegible] Arts Night** Pro Arts extends its gallery hours in conjunction with Oakland's Art Murmur. First Friday of every month. 6-8 p.m. ProArtsGallery.org/firstfridays. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

The Rising Loafer Cafe & Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] works by [illegible]. Sept. 7-30. 120 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-836-8113. TheRisingLoaferCafe.com.

Royal NoneSuch Gallery: 2 for 3: [illegible] August artist-in-residence Amanda Curreri works on [illegible] exploring subjective [illegible] through materials like [illegible] and [illegible]. Through Sept. 1. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-[illegible]. RoyalNoneSuchGallery.com

Studio Quercus: [illegible] Featuring recent work by [illegible] and [illegible]. Sept. 1-Oct. 20. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670. StudioQuercus.com.

Swarm Gallery: [illegible] With an exhibition of [illegible] printed. Through Sept. 30. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

[illegible] Art Gallery: [illegible] A special collection of works by Calvin Coleman, Eric Lee, and Julia [illegible]. Through Sept. 28. 5940 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-654-4058.

Transmission Gallery: [illegible] The new gallery showcases works by 19 Bay Area artists. Through Sept. 16. 770 West Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-817-3123. TheTransmissionGallery.com

Trax Gallery: [illegible] With works on [illegible] by the Port Costa-based [illegible] maker and ceramicist. Sept. 8-Oct. 14. 1812 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-540-8739. TraxGallery.com.

Traywick Contemporary: Wall Works 4 A group exhibition featuring site-specific installations by Steve [illegible], Barbara Gaertner, Diana Guerrero-Maciá, and Nancy Mintz. Through Sept. 29. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Traywick.com.

University of California Botanical Garden: Natural [illegible]: Artists, Architects, Scientists, and Poets in the Garden A collaborative project between the [illegible] Garden and a multi-disciplinary group of artists, [illegible] architects, and naturalists who spent time in the garden with horticulturists to develop site-specific works. Through Jan. 13, 2013. NaturalDiscourse.org. 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Saturday [illegible] A weekly companion to Art Murmur, but with fewer revelers and more focus on the galleries. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating galleries. Oakland. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 19th St. to Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] With [illegible] by [illegible] and sculpture by Luke [illegible], Wayne [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Sept. 29. 41 [illegible] St., [illegible].

Worth Ryder Gallery: [illegible] The first west coast solo exhibition for the New York-based artist. Sept. 12-Oct. 6. **New Work by [illegible] and [illegible]** With drawings and sculptures by [illegible] brothers. Sept. 12-Oct. 6. 116 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-2582.

MUSEUMS

African American Museum and Library at Oakland: The Way of the Doll An exhibit highlighting doll making and collecting. Through Nov. 10. [illegible] 14th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. OaklandLibrary.org/AAMLO

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA): Barry [illegible] The first [illegible] survey of the [illegible] San Francisco-based street artist features [illegible] from early drawings, five sculpture painted figure bottles, [illegible], and a re-creation of a [illegible] corner bodega, and more. Through Dec. 9. **[illegible] / MATRIX 242** [illegible] of works incorporating [illegible]. Through [illegible]. **D-L Alvarez / MATRIX 243** Oakland artist D-L Alvarez's series of drawings of painted [illegible] film stills from John Carpenter's Halloween explores the violence and of innocence. Through Oct. 7. $7-$10. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey to the Land of [illegible]** Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. **The Oakland-Berkeley Fire Aftermath** Photographs by Richard Misrach. Through Nov. 5. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Historical Society: Early Days of [illegible] in the East Bay With photographs of various East Bay dance troupes from [illegible] onward. Through Sept. 30. 1931 Center St., Berkeley. 510-848-0181. [illegible].berkeley.ca.us/histsoc.

Bancroft Library: All [illegible]: History of US Presidential Visits to Cal, 1891-2012 An exhibition highlighting campus visits by ten US presidents, on display in the [illegible] cases (second floor corridor). Through Nov. 30. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-642-3781.

Habitot Children's Museum: Shell Game The ongoing exhibition of Roger [illegible] painting, *Shell Game*, *The Big* [illegible], *The Missing Pieces*. Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: Native California Cultures The [illegible] exhibition comprises some 800 objects from the museum's collection of native Californian cultures. Daily. **[illegible]** Here, the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus Africa, Greek, [illegible], and the Mediterranean. Daily. 103 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Visions: An Exhibition of Contemporary [illegible] Works Through Sept. 10. 6420 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. 510-843-5466. [illegible]

Institute of Mosaic Art: California [illegible] Artists: Celebrating [illegible] Mosaic [illegible]. Daily. **[illegible] Art: Pet Portraiture** An exhibition of pets in mosaic. Daily. 2001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-451-5900. InstituteofMosaicArt.com

Lawrence Hall of Science: Science on a Sphere (SOS) A new permanent exhibit features an animated globe [illegible] hurricanes form, [illegible] sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow across the planet. Daily. $8-$12. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life: Bebop, [illegible] From The [illegible] Renaissance 1900-1930s With [illegible] posters from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Through Dec. 16. Free. **Projections** Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collection of archival, documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **Type/Graphics, Studying [illegible] Types in Print and Photography** An investigation of the use of reproducible images of ethnographic and documentary studies of Jewish lives since [illegible] century to the present, featuring work by [illegible] and unknown Jewish artists. Through Dec. 16. Free. **Memory Lab** Interactive permanent [illegible] allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own [illegible], photographs, and memories. Daily. **[illegible] Jewish Thought and Art** An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by prominent artists [illegible] to Jewish life from the [illegible] in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to emigration and the Holocaust, in the Charles Michaels Gallery. Through May 31, 2013. **Type/Graphics, Studying Various Types in Print and Photography** An exhibition investigating the use of reproducible images in ethnographic and documentary studies of [illegible] since the 17th century to the present, in the main gallery. Through Dec. 16. **Case Study No. 2 and Inventory Project** An exhibition drawn from unusual items from the Magnes collection such as calendars, amulets, postcards, and ritual objects, in the Warren Hellman Gallery. Through Dec. 16. **Bebop, [illegible] Cultural Renaissance, 1900s-1930s** in the [illegible] Gallery. Through Dec. 16. **[illegible] 101: The Art, [illegible]** With work inspired by and reflective of Jewish life, in various media and by various artists. Through Jan. 13, 2013. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Mills College Art Museum: [illegible]: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and [illegible] The exhibition features 25 multimedia works from 1988 to the present. Sept. 12-Dec. 9. **[illegible]: Karen Kilimnik's World of Ballet and [illegible]** An exhibition dedicated to the artist's longstanding engagement with [illegible] theatre, especially the Classical and Romantic story ballets of the 17th and early 19th centuries. Sept. 12-Dec. 9. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164. MCAM.Mills.edu.

North Gate Hall: [illegible] of Telegraph [illegible] 1960-1973 With photographs of Telegraph Avenue in [illegible] past, by [illegible] Brown. In room 105. Through Jan. 11, 2013. UC [illegible], Berkeley.

Oakland International Airport: Spanning the Bay A juried exhibition of artwork [illegible] in the Bay Area, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. Through Sept. 1. 1 Airport Dr., Oakland.

Oakland Museum of California: 1968 [illegible] A multimedia exhibition examining the events of 1968, a turning point for a generation coming of age and a nation at war. Through Nov. 25. Museum admission. **Gallery of California Art** With more than 800 works from the OMCA collection. Through Dec. 2. **[illegible] Light: Valley of [illegible] and Oakland** With photographs exploring California's Central Valley and highlighting the experiences of farm workers and their families. Through Dec. 31. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: [illegible], [illegible] and Pop[illegible] An exhibit of [illegible] Rodriguez and [illegible], with an opportunity to play [illegible], a digital [illegible]. Through Sept. 30. **[illegible]** With 35 [illegible] and 28 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinballs [illegible] in reference of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]. Daily. $15, under 12 $7.50. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349. PacificPinball.org.

Peralta Hacienda Historical Park: Rhythm of [illegible] and Refugee: A Cambodian [illegible] An exhibit [illegible] Cambodian [illegible] and the political upheaval that [illegible] in the country in the 1970s. With works by Oakland-based Cambodian artists and more. Through Dec. 31. 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. PeraltaHacienda.org. ●

THEATER REVIEW

CHINGLISH IN TRANSLATION

David Henry Hwang used a timeless theme to foretell a current political scandal.

By Rachel Swan

Kevin Berne

The play's overarching theme is of cultural misunderstanding.

If you follow international news — or any news, really — chances are you have at least a passing familiarity with disgraced Chinese politician Bo Xilai, his murder-convict wife, Gu Kailai, and his pampered son, Bo Guagua. Their intertwined storylines could be fodder for an epic screenplay.

Or a stage drama. David Henry Hwang's new play *Chinglish* was likely written before much of the Gu Kailai murder plot came to light — it premiered in New York last year, and opened at Berkeley Rep last week, under the direction of Leigh Silverman — which in many ways makes it eerily prescient. The Xilai of this story is a much more innocuous bureaucrat, Minister Cai (Larry Lei Zhang), whose only real crime is sending his son to a prestigious English university "through a back door" — meaning, with the help of a hapless English teacher named Peter (Brian Nishii) who expects a favor in return.

It turns out Peter's idea of recompense is for Cai to contract with Ohio Signage, a one-man "family" company owned by Daniel Cavanaugh (Alex Moggridge), who is vying for an apparently lucrative gig placing signs on the minister's new cultural center. Peter poses as Daniel's consultant, and though the minister pooh-poohs their proposal, Daniel ultimately finds an ally in Cai's [illegible] vice minister Xi Yan (the svelte Michelle Krusiec). In a surreptitious meeting at a local restaurant, Xi Yan pledges to help Daniel, who, she says, has "an honest face." But it's unclear what her intentions are.

The layers of deception and political ambition run deep in this play, with characters constantly trying to outwit and dupe one another — no one is murdered, but each scene reveals a new sinister subplot. But the play's overarching theme is surprisingly simple: Misunderstandings frequently occur across cultures, no matter how much we try to avoid them. "Chinglish" is just a portmanteau of two utterly discrete languages, and Hwang's way of saying that a lot can slip by in translation.

He demonstrates that easily by having Daniel deliver an opening monologue — complete with PowerPoint — about, well, signs. It turns out that many of the English signs in China do little in the way of conveying information. He cites an example from the Chief Financial Office: "Financial Affairs Is Everywhere Long." In an introductory meeting with Minister Cai, he presents two from restrooms: "Wash After Relief" and "Don't Forget to Carry Your Thing." Hilarious on the surface, these blunders only echo the ones that riddle their first colloquy. "His company is tiny and insignificant," the translator Miss Qian (Celeste Den) tells the minister, when Daniel tries to explain that Ohio Signage is a quaint, family-run firm. She speaks Mandarin, but the English translations appear on a large screen overhead. Though Hwang wrote the scene as a series of verbal gags, many of them seem entirely plausible.

And the perils of cross-cultural communication only deepen when Daniel and Xi Yan hold their first backroom meeting, which, of course, has the tenor of a flirtation, just to further complicate things. Xi Yan is a sleek, reedy, cat-eyed woman in dangerously high heels. Her command of two languages is the best of any character after Peter, and she uses it first to manipulate, then seduce. Moggridge plays Daniel as a guileless, lumpy Midwesterner. While he's certainly in a position to criticize Xi Yan, it doesn't really seem within his character. Rather, he's someone who needs to be yanked around, and who easily becomes complicit in his own exploitation.

Thus, a bumpy illicit romance compounds a parallel business courtship, as Daniel and Xi Yan flit between conference rooms, restaurants, and hotels. The sets, designed by David Korins, are a puzzle of revolving walls that create a sequence of claustrophobic environments: the hotel lobby with its brass-door elevator; a sour fish soup restaurant with calligraphy hanging from the walls; an office in Guiyang with swivel chairs and large watercolor paintings. Korins built the set on a pair of turntables that allow the walls to constantly shuffle between scenes, creating a fast-moving but busy world. In an interview with Broadway.com, he described it as alternately "aspirational" and "pedestrian," two adjectives that Hwang obviously associates with China's culture at large.

That puzzle-piece world mirrors the byzantine plot of *Chinglish* and the themes contained therein. It's surely topical, littered with references to the Enron scandal, East-West diplomacy, and China's changing position on the map of world economic powers — not to mention recent news events. But the ideas are also timeless. International trade deals are delicate, fleeting things; mistranslation, on the other hand, is here forever. ●

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Show Details

Through Oct. 7 at Berkeley Repertory Roda Theatre (2015 Addison St., Berkeley). $14.50-$99. BerkeleyRep.org

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

The Last Laugh With Phil Johnson, Jeremy Greenberg, Kamilla [illegible], Joe Klocek, Ben [illegible]. Fri., Sept. 7, 10:30 p.m. $8-$12. The Last Laugh [illegible], Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-[illegible]. PanTheater.com.

The Last Laugh With Mike [illegible], Kaleohar Kenley, Ben Feldman, David Studebaker and Damon Kraetter. Sat., Sept. 8, 10:30 p.m. $8-$12. The Last Laugh [illegible], Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-[illegible]. PanTheater.com.

Mark Pitta [illegible]. Wed., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. $15. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 925-[illegible]. PleasantonArtsAndFire[illegible].org.

Comedy Sox, Whiskey Go A family-friendly improv show that gives kids a [illegible] to participate on stage. Sun., Sept. 9, 2 p.m. $10. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. 925-[illegible].

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m. [illegible] Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland. 510-673-[illegible]. Continental[illegible].com.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by LeRoy Stanford Jr. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. [illegible]Productions.com. Island Barbecue Club, 1430 Webster St., Alameda. 510-865-[illegible]. IslandParadiseClub.com.

The Human Story [illegible] weekly improv [illegible]. Additional [illegible] Saturdays, 8 p.m. $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-[illegible]. PanTheater.com.

Oakland Comedy Night Sponsored by [illegible]. Tue., Sept. 11, 8:30-10 p.m. Free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Oakland Ballet's Dance on Film Festival With a screening of *West Side Story*, [illegible] by a talk about the film's making by [illegible] Ballet artistic director [illegible]. Wed., Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m. $5. 925-[illegible]. OaklandBallet.org. Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-[illegible].

LIVE VARIETY

First Friday Follies With [illegible] live music hosted by MC [illegible]. First Friday of every month, 9 p.m. Free. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-[illegible]. StorkClubOakland.com.

Happy Hour With Magician [illegible] With live [illegible] by [illegible], happy hour cocktails, and bar food. Starting Sep. 7, Fridays, 6 p.m. Continues through Sept. 28. Free. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

[illegible] Presents [illegible] With music, dancing, games, and live performances in conjunction with a screening of the cult classic film. Sat., Sept. 8, [illegible]. [illegible] Albany [illegible], [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany. 510-464-[illegible].

Who Survives The Word? Artists Within [illegible] 2011-2012 Art, poetry, music, and [illegible] by [illegible]. Sat., Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-[illegible]. Free. Albany [illegible], 880 [illegible] Ave., Albany. 510-526-7346. AlbanyUMC.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

All My Sons [illegible] Arthur Miller's classic drama about a family's dark secret [illegible]. Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Sept. 23. $20-$45. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Cats Woodminster Summer Musicals takes on the Andrew Lloyd Webber classic. [illegible] by Joel Schlader. Starting Sep. 7, Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 16. $27-$56. Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Sanborn Dr., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

Chinglish Leigh Silverman [illegible] West Coast premiere of David Henry Hwang's Broadway comedy about the cross-cultural errors that ensue as an American businessman's trip to Asia. Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 7. $14.50-$99. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Dan Hoyle's The Kipling Hotel: Tales from the Electric Pink Hat Hoyle's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1960s, from [illegible] working as a [illegible] to his stint as a live-in waiter at a retirement hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 14. $20-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity [illegible] the Bay Area premiere of Kristoffer Diaz's satirical play about a [illegible] wrestler [illegible]. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. $20-$60. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

The Fisherman's Wife [illegible]

PICKS

Pak Han

Precious Little

Even more than most playwrights, Madeleine George has a distinct talent for capturing vernacular prose — that of academics larding their dialogue with jargon, or a doctor attempting to define a rare genetic disease in layman's terms, or kids mocking a gorilla at a zoo, or a conversation between a counselor and a patient that takes the form of a cross-examination. All of these dialogues precipitate in her new play *Precious Little*, which is largely about the vibrancy and occasional shortcomings of spoken language, particularly at the moment of a life crisis (in this case, a woman deciding whether to abort a fetus that may suffer from an obscure genetic disease). Produced by Shotgun Players and directed by Marissa Wolf, this new production features three powerful actresses, two saddled with multiple roles and the third deputized to a play an ape. Martin Flynn's paneled set and Wolf's deft staging create the illusion of intimacy, turning audience members into eavesdroppers. As the ape, Nancy Carlin reclines on a great bower, as bored and brooding as a woman in repose. Through September 9 at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $18-$25. 510-841-6500 or ShotgunPlayers.org — *Rachel Swan*

[illegible] *[illegible]* an Impact Theatre production about [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 29. $10-$20. ImpactTheatre.com. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

Gray Ransom: The Musical A musical [illegible] of the story of Faith Ewing, [illegible] and her daughter, [illegible] Sept. 6-8, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays; Thu., Sept. 27, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. $10-$20. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. 510-881-6777. [illegible].org.

Lucky Stiff Robert [illegible] musical murder-mystery farce about an unassuming English shoe salesman [illegible] the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle [illegible] in Monte Carlo. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:30 & 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 29. $38-$47. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400. LesherArtsCenter.org.

The [illegible] Nothing Gold Can Stay A Low Road Theater adaptation of the story of the [illegible]. Fri., Sept. 7, 7 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 8, 8 p.m. Through Sept. 25. 8 p.m. $12 suggested donation. LowRoadTheater.org. Temescal Art Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. TemescalArtCenter.org.

Precious Little Marissa Wolf directs a Shotgun Players Production by Madeleine George, about a linguistic [illegible] soon-to-be single lesbian human facing the best and worst aspects of human nature. Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 9. $18-$25. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org. ●

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PEGASUS DOWNTOWN STAFF PICKS

Banksy You Are an Acceptable Level of Threat and If You Were Not You Would Know About It

By Gary Shove & Patrick Potter

$35.00

Stencils are freakin' rad! —and this book has some of the best I've ever seen. This stuff is COMPLEX, not simple but complex AND political. This is no more graffiti artist getting high off of the experience, but a dude who is thinking about his images and their meaning.

This book makes me want to live in London so I could stalk this dude and be pleasantly accustomed to seeing such amazing would art on a daily basis.

This book also makes me get all excited like I'm looking at dirty pictures.

Published by Carpet Bombing Culture, 8/15/12

11/22/63 A Novel By Stephen King

$19.99

What if you could go back in time and change something really major? Does the butterfly effect really exist? Don't you think the country would be in a better place now if, say, JFK hadn't been assassinated? Stephen King has for once written a book that isn't terrifying or creepy, just engaging and dare I say thought provoking. Also you just may learn a bit of U.S. history. I know I did. Sorry Bonn's (My 12th grade AP US History teacher)

Published by Gallery Books, 7/24/12

How Music Works

By David Byrne

$32.00

Included here are all the elements needed to make a Bay Area reader happy: Music. McSweeney's. David Byrne and books. Part history, anthropology, philosophy and memoir, Byrne leaves no musical stone unturned. This deeply personal McSweeney's production is irresistible to music neophytes and enthusiasts alike.

Published by McSweeney's, 9/12/12

LAUREL STAFF PICKS

Olivia and the Fairy Princess

By Ian Falconer

$17.99

Olivia the Pig is tired of princesses. They're what all her friends want to be but Olivia is an individual. The possibilities are endless, and with Olivia always funny. Her mother is a saint. A great addition to non-princess books collections.

Published by Simon & Schuster, 8/28/12

A Soldier's Secret. The Incredible True Story of Sarah Edmonds: A Civil War Hero

By Marissa Moss

$16.95

Historical fiction at its best, the novel tells the story of Sarah Emma Edmonds who masqueraded as a man named Frank Thompson during the Civil War. She was a nurse on the battlefield, a spy for the Union Army and was captured by (and escaped from) the Confederates. It offers readers an in-depth view not only at the Civil War but also is Sarah's journey to self-discovery as she grapples with living a lie and falling in love.

Published by Harry N. Abrams Books, 8/1/12

Shiver Me Timbers! Pirate Poems & Paintings

By Douglas Florian, Illustrated by Robert Neubecker

$16.99

Who doesn't need more pirate poems? There aren't nearly enough of them and these are pretty great. Reading aloud and reading poetry regularly is a great way to impart a love of words to children. And adults. And Pirates. Scoundrels, scallywags an scurvy dogs will all love it.

Published by Beach Lane Books, 8/2/12

EAST BAY INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES

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Alameda Sports, Cards & Comix
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Books Inc.
1344 Park St.

BERKELEY

Afikomen Jewish Books
3042 Claremont Ave

Analog Books.
1816 Euclid Ave.

BCA Buddhist Bookstore
2140 Durant Ave

Berkeley Art Museum Store
2985 Durant Ave. #2259

Black Oak Books
2618 San Pablo Ave

Books Inc.
1760 4th St

Builders Booksource
1817 Fourth St.

Book Carnival
3066 Claremont Ave

Eastwind Books of Berkeley
2066 University Ave

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2530 San Pablo Ave

Friends of the Berkeley Public Library Bookstores
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2090 Kittredge St

Mr. Mopps Children's Bookshop
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Mrs. Dalloway's
2904 College Ave

The Other Change of Hobbit
3264 Adeline St

Pegasus Books
2349 Shattuck Ave
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OAKLAND

A Great Good Place For Books
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The Cathedral Shop
2121 Harrison St

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5433 College Ave

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4100 MacArthur Blvd

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Oakland Museum of California
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Pegasus Books
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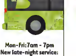

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LECTURES & LIT

Straight Outta Brakeland

Telegraph Avenue is Michael Chabon's love letter to the East Bay

Michael Chabon

Just chapters into Michael Chabon's tightly contained *Telegraph Avenue* — a novel so engaging, fun and, to us locals, eerily familiar — the Berkeley author throws politically correct caution to the wind with a delightful portrayal of President Barack Obama back in 2004. Chabon dresses down the then-senator with a funky attitude, a deep love of black music, and way with the ladies as he attends a fundraiser in the Berkeley Hills to rap positive with Gwen the midwife. Suddenly, admiring the stutter-step speech of this young black man, all seems hopeful again.

That's just one bit that *Telegraph Avenue* is all sorts of wonderful. The story focuses on a record store called Brokeland Records, where customers stop by to find good music and, most of all, to shoot the shit. It represents any number of mom and pop record shops — like the now-defunct inspiration for Brokeland, Berrigan's on Claremont Avenue — that have struggled to stay open as big box stores moved in. In *Telegraph Avenue*, that retail behemoth is Dogpile. But *Telegraph Avenue* is also the story of two guys (one black and one white, who own Brokeland) under pressure, their sons, one raised from birth and one estranged who returns, both on the verge of falling in love; and their spouses, midwives steadfastly practicing their art amidst changing regulations and hostility from doctors. It's the story of Oakland and Berkeley and every little nuance — Ethiopian restaurants, white guys who can jump, the Ashby flea market, holistic childbirth, The Smokehouse, the A's — you can think of. "I was trying to write about Oakland specifically, no doubt," Chabon said about his first novel set in the Bay Area. "I wasn't trying to make any larger points. I was just focusing on the reality of the situation I'd created in the book: two guys and a mogul coming in trying to open this big store."

Chabon's inspiration for the world he created and the people he populated it with is as much influenced by the East Bay as it is by Columbia, Maryland, "a racially integrated semi-utopian planned community where I spent the formative years of my life," Chabon explained. Brokeland and its owners, customers, and seat warmers serve as a micro-Columbia, where color doesn't matter so much as just being down, which is the message Chabon took from Obama's electrifying 2004 speech at the Democratic National Convention. "What he was talking about was a place I already lived and I tried to recreate in fiction and in this record store and Oakland-Berkeley themselves," said Chabon.

Let's be real: Chabon is not black, and there is a stigma to writing about black folks if you're not black, so there's a Blaxploitation theme running amok in this novel like James Brown on stage. "Blaxploitation — in addition to being a great source of imagery and plot and a vibe and a way of connecting to the music of the period — it's also a way of signaling to the reader ... that I know that what I'm doing is historically problematic," said Chabon. Luckily, jive-talking flows easily from the author, allowing the reader to enjoy every word.

In honor of the book release on Wednesday, September 12, Diesel Bookstore (5433 College Avenue) will turn itself into a replica of the fictional Brokeland Records and throw a party. Chabon said the event wasn't his idea, but that one of the surprises from *Telegraph Avenue*'s release is the number of indie bookstores who've felt a kinship with Brokeland. "I totally get it," he said, "but it never occurred to me while I was writing it." Not to give away the ending, but Chabon notes that the kinship is just a little ironic: The big corporations (like the novel's Dogpile) that came in to stomp on the indies are "in the past already ... they see him as the incoming big monster, the Godzilla, but in fact he's a dinosaur and he's about to get stomped on, too." So, dear reader, take heart. 7:30 p.m., by invite to the first two hundred people to purchase a signed copy. 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com

— Alison Peters

LECTURES

Diane Fujino: "Samurai Among Panthers" The [illegible] and professor of the Department of Asian American Studies at UC Santa Barbara discusses her book about [illegible] Asian American and black activism [illegible] Tue., Sept. 11, 6:30-8 p.m. Oakland Public Library [illegible] Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5040. OaklandLibrary.org.

An Evening With [illegible] Novelist Jeff [illegible] Tue., Sept. 11, 7:30-9 p.m. [illegible] Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400. LesherArtsCenter.org.

Geoff Manaugh: "Applied Topology" The author of BLDGBLOG and former [illegible] editor of *Dwell* magazine discusses burglary, tunneling, and urban exploration. Thu., Sept. 6, 5-7 p.m. 510-495-2506. Oakland [illegible] Saturday [illegible] Hall, Berkeley.

Geoffrey Nunberg: "Ascent of the A-Word: Assholism the First Sixty Years" The adjunct full professor at UC Berkeley's School of Information discusses the life of the word [illegible] as part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters [illegible] Tue., Sept. 11, 7:30-9 p.m. $7-$12. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Historical Symposium: "The Catholic Diocese of Oakland, [illegible] From the [illegible] Vatican Council" An examination of the 50-year history of the Catholic Diocese of Oakland, with panelists including Bishop Emeritus John Cummins, Father Joseph Chinnici, OFM, Father John Coleman, SJ, Mary Ann [illegible] and Sister [illegible] Sun., Sept. 9, 4-8 p.m. The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. 510-267-8306. CTLCathedral.org.

Jae-Jung Suh: "[illegible] of [illegible] to [illegible] Opportunities for Northeast Asia's Peace?" The Johns Hopkins University fellow discusses the Geneva Agreed Framework of 1994, Party Process of 1998-1999, the Six Party Talks, and more. Call 510-642-2809 for time. Thu., Sept. 6. [illegible] of East Asian Studies, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-642-0536. IEAS.berkeley.edu.

Jeb Sprague: "Paramilitarism and the Assault on Democracy in Haiti" The author discusses his book, which examines the dangerous world of right-wing paramilitarism in Haiti and its role in undermining the democratic aspirations of the Haitian people. Sun., Sept. 9, 4-8 p.m. [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Jonathan Kozol: "Fire in the Ashes: Twenty-Five Years Among the Poorest Children in America" The National Book Award-winning author discusses his new book about the US public school system. Fri., Sept. 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $5-$15. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/[illegible] King Middle School, 1781 Rose St., Berkeley. 510-644-6280.

Kaiya Congolt: "Bluegrass [illegible] & Year in the Minor Leagues Life" The author discusses her new book about baseball. Sat., Sept. 8, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Kim Nadeau Hill: "The Art of Chiura Obata" The speaker discusses and shares slides of the art of her grandfather. Mon., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Ln., El Cerrito. 510-559-7000.

[illegible]: The [illegible] of [illegible] With a video presentation by the UC Santa Cruz professor of [illegible] and researcher [illegible] Wed., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196. RevolutionBooks.org.

OMCA Strike-Slip Series: "Sisterhood is Powerful: The Women's Movement, 1966 and Today" With a discussion about the women's movement, including what has changed for women since 1966 and what issues still remain. Sat., Sept. 8, 1-2 p.m. Free w/admission. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Panel Discussion: "Crisis in Europe: Consul General Views" A discussion about the unprecedented crisis with Consuls General Hon. Peter Rothen (Germany), Hon. [illegible] (Greece), Hon. Mauro Battocchi (Italy), and Hon. [illegible] (EU countries). Moderated by I-House executive director Dr. [illegible] Wed., Sept. 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m. [illegible] International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9490.

Panel Discussion: "The Constitutional Crisis of Impeachment: [illegible] and the Future of American Democracy" Panelists include UC Berkeley associate history professor [illegible] McLennan and UC Berkeley law professors [illegible] Simon and Frank Zimring. Wed., Sept. 12, 6-8 p.m. Free Speech Movement Cafe, Moffitt Library, Berkeley. 510-684-0955.

Phil Cousineau: "The Painted Word: A Treasure Chest of Remarkable Words and Their Origins" The author discusses his etymology of interesting words. Thu., Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

General Strike: "How Capitalism [illegible] Our Lives" In a conversation with feminist and psychotherapist Harriet Fraad, the author and economist discusses how the [illegible] functioning of capitalism brings [illegible], unemployment, wars and the social crises that unsettle our lives. Fri., Sept. 7, 7-8 p.m. $5. [illegible] South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., Berkeley. 510-981-5177.

Shotgun Players Company: "Breaking It Down: Shotgun Players at 20" Cast members and management from the Bay Area theater company discuss their new book about the company's history and evolution. With a performance of a mock play *Tough Love* by Mark Jackson and directed by Beth Wilmurt. Fri., Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Yuri Schneider: "Expedition Unknown: The Continental Journey" The Bowen-born Hollywood endurance athlete discusses his past [illegible] and the mountain biking journey he led across the [illegible] country of Bhutan. Tue., Sept. 11, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

LITERARY EVENTS

Alameda Free Library [illegible] Month At the library's family study room. Second Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. Oakland Free Library, 1550 Oak St., Alameda. 510-747-7777. CityofAlamedaCA.gov/Library.

Alameda's Young Teens Book Club Discussing Mary Pearson's *The Fox Inheritance*. For ages 13 and up. Tue., Sept. 11, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Art With Writers Society Bones East Oakland hosts a weekly writing and presentation [illegible] designed to generate new ideas [illegible] and foster a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. CoolCrackle.com. The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-384-3145. 25thStreetCollective.com.

Banned Books Celebrity Peter Orner, Camille Dungy, Carolyn Cooke, Tess Taylor, and [illegible] Lukas share personal essays and a short excerpt from a writer who has been banned, threatened or imprisoned. Sat., Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Bob Kahn and Pam Mosellery The poets read from their respective works. Wed., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4378.

Books and Film: The French Connection With a comparison of the gritty film to the written account of NYC detectives who uncovered the source of a major drug smuggling operation. Sun., Sept. 9, 2:30 p.m. Berkeley Public Library, Claremont Branch, 2940 Benvenue St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Dimond Library Book Discussion Group A monthly literary circle for adults. Call library for current title. Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-482-7844. OaklandLibrary.org.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. 510-705-1200. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-705-1200. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Gigi Pandian Sharing her debut novel, *Artifact*. Sat., Sept. 8, 2 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Graphic Novel Palooza With Pedro Iglesias, Doug TenNapel, and [illegible] Burns. Sun., Sept. 9, 11:30 a.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave.

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T. GERONIMO JOHNSON
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FRI SEP 28 7PM
JACOB NEEDLEMAN
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PICKS

Graphic Novel Palooza

Callie, set designer for her middle school's drama, wants to wow the audience with her Broadway-worthy style. Two problems: the budget, and the fact that she doesn't have any idea what she's doing. Enter two cute brothers, and commence drama. That's the premise of Raina Telgemeier's new graphic novel, *Drama*. Doug TenNapel's *Cardboard* tells the story of Cam's birthday cardboard-box come to life, and James Burks' *Bird & Squirrel on the Run* finds the eponymous characters outwitting Cat (lying in wait like Wile E. Coyote) and becoming best friends along their crazy road trip. Hear more about these books at Graphic Novel Palooza on Sunday, Sept. 9, at A Great Good Place for Books (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland). 11:30 a.m., free. 510-339-8210 or GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com. — *Alison Peters*

Geoffrey Nunberg

Out loud or in your head, while driving, talking to co-workers, or simply as a term of endearment, you use the word all the time: so why not find out what it means and where it comes from? We're talking about "asshole," and it's the subject of Geoffrey Nunberg's entertaining new book, *Ascent of the A-Word: Assholism, the First Sixty Years*. Nunberg, a linguist, professor at UC Berkeley's School of Information, and a former chair of the Usage Panel of the American Heritage Dictionary, chronicles the word's humble beginnings as fodder for WWII soldiers and Norman Mailer plays, through its years as a stock feminist insult, to its status today as a "dirty" word. Hear all about it on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at The Hillside Club (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley). 7:30 p.m., free. 510-848-3227 or HillsideClub.org. — *A.P.*

Banned Books

Howl. [illegible]. [illegible]. What do these titles have in common? They were all banned at one point. In honor of Banned Books Month, PEN American Center West collaborates with Mrs. Dalloway's to present an evening of local writers, including Peter Orner, Camille Dungy, Carolyn Cook, Tess Taylor, and Michael David Lukas, who will read selections from authors who've been either banned, censored, or imprisoned for their art. On Saturday, Sept. 8, at Mrs. Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley). 7:30 p.m., free. 510-704-8222 or MrsDalloways.com. — *A.P.*

Laura Walker

It's a [illegible] face-off as

Raina Telgemeier

Laura Walker goes up against Geoffrey Nunberg for the title of most alphabetically-inspired-book of the week. Walker used the Oxford Old English Dictionary's Volume VI as inspiration for her new book of poems — specifically the volume covering *FOLLOW-HASWED*, which is also the name of her book. Joining her is Gillian Olivia Blythe Hamel, poet and St. Mary's graduate who edits at Omnidawn Publishing and manages its online magazine, *OmniVerse*. On Wednesday, Sept. 12, at University Press Books (2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 6:30 p.m., free. 510-548-0585 or UniversityPressBooks.com. — *A.P.*

Oakland. 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com.

Hella Black and Speakeasy 33 Thursdays: Open mic poetry followed at 10:30 p.m. by dancing, poetry, rap, [illegible], and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-[illegible], EastsideArtsAlliance.com.

Julia Connor and Jim Stockel: Reading from their respective works of poetry. Sat., Sept. 8, 7-9 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

[illegible]: Reading from the debut installment of her Magnolia League [illegible] *[illegible]*. Wed., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com.

Kim Stanley Robinson [illegible] *In the Sierra*: Guests include Tom Killion, Carter Scholz and [illegible]. Wed., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087, MoesBooks.com.

Laura Walker and Gillian Olivia Blythe Hamel: Reading from their respective works of poetry. Wed., Sept. 12, 6:30-8 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585, UniversityPressBooks.com.

Lunch Poems: Kickoff Reading: With readings of poems selected by distinguished faculty and staff. Hosted by Robert Hass and University Librarian Thomas C. Leonard. Thu., Sept. 6, 12:10-12:50 p.m. Doe Library, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

[illegible]: Reading from her new memoir, *The Woman in the Photograph*. Wed., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Michael Chabon: Sharing his new novel, *Telegraph Avenue*. Wed., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965, DieselBookstore.com.

The Thursday [illegible] Book Club: Discussing Edmund De Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes*. Wed., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226, BooksInc.net/Alameda.

The Berkeley Book: An exhibition dedicated to poetry and experimental books with a reading [illegible] recordings of books and a chance to take home a book from [illegible] of small East Bay presses. Through Dec. 9. Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

The Bookmatters Book Group: A monthly book discussion group. This month: any of the books from Janet Dawson's Jeri Howard Mystery series. First Thursday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991, CCCLib.org/locations/ElSobrante.html.

Urban Reading Book Club: Call Sharon McKellar for monthly book [illegible] 510-615-5727. Second Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m. Oakland Public Library Elmhurst Branch, 1427 88th Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5727, OaklandLibrary.org.

PUBLIC INTEREST

[illegible] Series: Community Myth Building Workshop: Mythologist Will Paul leads a collaborative workshop about the roles classic mythology plays in the global-local transition. Sat., Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible]. 942 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

The [illegible] Oakland [illegible] Committee OUSD Candidate Debate: Wed., Sept. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. McClymonds High School, 2607 Myrtle St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

[illegible]: In support of women and [illegible] by the Committee for South African Solidarity, poetry, music, and keynote speaker [illegible] South African Consul General. Call 415-882-[illegible] to RSVP. Sun., Sept. 9, 5-9 p.m. [illegible] 2950 [illegible] Street, Berkeley.

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam: With spoken word and an improvisational band or DJ. [illegible]. Cash prizes each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082, StarryPloughPub.com.

The [illegible]: A weekly open mic for up-and-coming Bay Area artists, poets, and comedians. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., free. Donkey's Locker, 5847 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible], DonkeysLocker.com.

Last Word Poetry [illegible]: Poetry donations and open mic. First Friday of every month, 7 p.m. First Saturday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Nefeli Caffe, 1854 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-841-[illegible].

Greater Alameda Prose & Poetry Reading: Poetry reading and open mic. [illegible] Saturday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

[illegible] Poetry Night: Poetry readings by local poets, followed by an open mic. Second Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

The [illegible]: Storytellers share 10-minute [illegible] from their lives, with [illegible] by the draw of a hat [illegible]. Mon., Sept. 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $5-$10. [illegible]. Grand Lake Coffee House, 440 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

[illegible]: Open mic poetry readings. First Friday of every month, 8 p.m., free. [illegible] Cafe, [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

[illegible]: [illegible] hosts a women-only open mic featuring Amy Meyers and [illegible] Lane and more female [illegible], comedians, and performance artists. [illegible] free and wheelchair accessible. Sat., Sept. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. [illegible] admission [illegible]. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 424 Monte Vista Ave., Oakland. 510-654-5830, PlymouthOakland.org. ●

FOOD & DRINK

The pesto pie had the best crust of all

Pat [illegible]

TOTALLY HOT

The thin-crust pizza at Hot Italian is a pleasant surprise at Emeryville's Public Market.

By Luke Tsai

Having spent my formative years in suburban New Jersey, where local gems are outnumbered by Olive Gardens, I've developed what you might call an overzealous skepticism toward shiny strip mall restaurants. Which is why I was initially wary of Emeryville's Hot Italian.

It isn't a chain — it's the second location of the Sacramento-based pizza bar — but it does have a bit of that slick commercial feel, from the servers' black "Hot Italian" T-shirts to the little graphic icons on the highly customizable mix-and-match menu. (Want to have that salad on top of a pizza? No problem. Want to turn the pizza into a sandwich? Done.) And the Emeryville branch is essentially a strip mall restaurant, located in a big warehouse-y space at the Public Market — past the preteens duking it out at the ping-pong table outside Urban Outfitters, past the entrance to the humongous food court. But despite its surroundings, Hot Italian has the feel of a stylish modern cafeteria: seat-yourself communal tables, soccer matches projected onto the wall, and an all-window facade that floods the dining area with natural light.

As for its thin-crust pizza: It's quite good — the handiwork of co-owner and head pizzaiolo Fabrizio Cercatore, an Italian transplant who moved to the United States to open the original Hot Italian in 2009. His business partner Andrea Lepore told me Cercatore doesn't adhere to any particular regional Italian style — he isn't orthodox about using a prescribed type of flour or tomatoes from a specific region in Italy. Instead, the pizzas are a bit of a hybrid (prosciutto from Italy, cheese and tomatoes from California), though the flavor combinations tend to be traditionally Italian.

The pies rotate seasonally, and each one is named after some "hot" Italian celebrity — rock stars and soccer players, mostly. The Cannavaro was topped with tomato sauce, mozzarella, and basil — a classic Margherita — and seemed a fine choice to test the *pizzaiolo's* chops. It passed muster: The pizza had neither too much nor too little sauce or cheese and a slightly chewy crust with a depth of flavor born from the dough's long rise.

Strangely enough for a restaurant called "Hot Italian," the pizza should have come to our table a bit hotter — we weren't sure if that was a fault of the electric oven (the Sacramento shop uses one that's wood-fired) or a service snafu. And neither the top nor the bottom of the pie were as deeply charred as I would have liked — if crispiness is the main quality you prize in a pizza, you might be disappointed.

You can get significantly better pizza at Pizzaiolo or, if the New York style is more your speed, Rotten City Pizza. Still, it's a damn fine pie for $10, and you'd be hard-pressed to find a (relatively) quick dining option before catching a flick at one of the nearby cineplexes or after a soul-crushing IKEA run.

Problems can occur when you veer away from the simpler pies. With too many toppings, the crust gets soggy and the flavors become muddled, as was the case with the Fiori (with prosciutto di parma, arugula, mushrooms, and truffle oil) — though apparently it's a bestseller and was a hit with my tablemates. On the other hand, while simple, the sauceless Bellucci (with house-made fennel sausage and fresh ricotta) suffered from blandness.

My favorite pizza was the Ligabue, a pesto pie with roasted pine nuts and shaved Pecorino Romano: clean, classic flavors and — unencumbered by excess moisture — the best crust of them all.

And the Arcuri, topped with roasted summer vegetables and goat cheese, was like a hearty ratatouille in pizza form — a case where California and Italy melded together especially well.

The non-pizza items are hit or miss. The "Ixxe" salad was a play-it-safe combination of baby spinach, sliced nectarines, marcona almonds, and creamy blue cheese — perfectly acceptable but hardly a showstopper. And while the salumi and cheese platter is an excellent value, the spread isn't so different from what you'd be able to put together yourself at the Whole Foods deli counter.

One of the restaurant's quirks is that it uses the same pizza dough for almost everything: the pizzas, the flatbreads, the calzones. For the paninis, toppings are sandwiched inside two pieces of pizza crust. For dessert, Hot Italian takes a page out of Pizza Hut's playbook with the *Zucchero*, a kind of Euro version of a dessert pizza: a piece of dough is covered with an Italian chocolate-hazelnut spread, rolled up, and baked.

It's a case study in how to maximize the use of a single ingredient. But this can go terribly wrong: Our *Zucchero* had an unappealing savoriness and a raw-dough taste, from the inside being undercooked, that left me feeling queasy.

A note about the service: During one visit we got our pizzas lightning-quick, but another time we got stuck behind a big office order and service ground to a halt. At one point, we looked around and realized that no one in the entire restaurant was eating pizza. But credit where credit is due: One apologetic server comped our dessert and one of our pizzas.

Ultimately, Hot Italian straddles the line between the gloss (and the studied inoffensiveness) of a chain restaurant and something better. And while Lepore herself never mentioned dreams of a pizza empire, she did say that she and Cercatore had been looking to expand into other urban areas. Their business model seems easy enough to replicate, so one can imagine these pizza bars spreading like wildfire, and maybe that's not a bad thing. There are lots of places where Hot Italian would be probably be the best pizza in town. ■

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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Sample Menu

Small Salumi and Cheese Plate	$10
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"Ligabue" Pizza	$14
"Bellucci" Calzone	$14
Zucchero	$12

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WHAT THE FORK

THE GREASE BOX'S GLUTEN-FREE FRIED CHICKEN IS AMAZINGLY GOOD

Plus the food at Cal Memorial Stadium gets a facelift.

By Luke Tsai

It's easy for folks with food allergies or other dietary restrictions to feel like they're stuck eating pale imitations of the real thing. But then there's The Grease Box mobile kitchen, an Oakland-based gluten-free food cart that has been popping up at Bay Area events for the past year — most notably at the First Friday festivities in Temescal Alley. The very name of the cart bespeaks decadence and plenty — not the austerity you might normally associate with a gluten-free (or whatever-free) diet.

More importantly, chef-owner Lizzy Boelter's mostly fried offerings are the real deal, especially her signature dish, gluten-free fried chicken that has all the crispy, juicy, lip-smacking goodness you could ask for.

The Louisiana native (who works at Oakland's Boot and Shoe Service by day) said that ever since she was diagnosed with celiac disease three years ago, she's hated how many of the other gluten-free food companies would use gums and other artificial ingredients to make things like bagels and French baguettes — foods that, according to Boelter, are just about impossible to make gluten-free and delicious. There were already so many foods that were naturally gluten-free — why not eat those?

Take Boelter's fried chicken, a recipe she's gradually perfected over the course of the past few years. An earlier version had a batter made with masa harina (a kind of corn flour) and an egg-and-buttermilk wash. But at the time, she had a business partner who couldn't eat dairy, so she started experimenting with dairy-free alternatives.

Eventually, she came up with a wine-and-flour-based batter similar to the kind used to make an Italian *fritto misto* ("mixed fry"). Instead of a wheat-based flour, she uses a mixture of chickpea flour (for a light and flaky texture) and rice flour (to make it crispy). The wine adds flavor and helps tenderize the meat.

The result is fried chicken that, gluten-free or not, is amazingly good. The meat comes out unimpeachably juicy and tender. Best of all, each piece is coated in a thin batter that's fried to a beautiful walnut brown and is shatteringly crisp. And even though I usually favor chicken that's fried on the bone, one of the advantages of the organic boneless-and-skinless thighs Boelter uses is that the batter stays crispy all the way around.

Boelter had hoped to start setting up her cart in the Temescal Alley more regularly; however, due to permitting issues, even her First Friday appearances are on hold for now.

Luke Tsai

The batter is made from chickpea and rice flour.

Hopefully, though, there will other opportunities for people to try The Grease Box's gluten-free goodies in the near future. For one, Boelter is a regular at San Francisco's Underground Market — the next event is on Friday, September 7, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Public Works (161 Erie St.). She's also about to start selling Southern-style cornbread sandwiches on Good Eggs, the Bay Area-based online marketplace for locally produced food. And she'll have her cart set up each week at the Uptown Farmers Market, which is slated to launch in the spring.

New Menu at Cal Memorial Stadium

After 21 months of construction work, Cal Memorial Stadium reopened this past weekend with Saturday's season opener against the University of Nevada.

Easily overlooked among news of some $321 million in pledged funds is another, perhaps less glamorous, change: The stadium's concession stand menus have also been given a facelift, adding globally-inspired items like hummus, sushi rolls, chicken bao, and Sriracha-spiked buffalo chicken sandwiches to the usual array of burgers and hot dogs.

In May, Cal Dining — the operator of four UC Berkeley dining halls and a dozen different retail locations, making it the largest food provider on campus — was awarded a fifteen-year contract to oversee concessions at all of the university's athletic facilities.

Shawn LaPean, the program's executive director, explained that his approach was to keep all of the foods football fans would normally expect (the popcorn, burgers, and hot dogs) and then to simply expand on that — adding more variety and a greater number of healthy options, made from local and sustainably sourced ingredients when possible.

For instance, he touted the Sabra hummus bowls, which — granted — are neither freshly prepared nor local, but are conveniently packaged for quick-service dining and make for a "healthier option than nachos with cheese sauce." He added that Cal Dining is uniquely attuned to what UC Berkeley students want to eat, given that the program serves 29,000 meals a day on campus.

LaPean said he also aspires to develop a signature menu item — something along the lines of the $16 soft-shell crab sandwich at San Francisco's AT&T Park, where the Golden Bears played last season. What that blockbuster item might be, however, is still a work in progress.

"We don't want to put everything out there the first game," he said. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

RESTAURANTS&CAFES

Where to Eat Pizza

Arinell
2119 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035. Californians invented wood-oven fired pizza because they couldn't do New York style pizzas right. But this joint makes authentic — and tasty — thin and crisp regular pizzas and thicker Sicilian-style pies. Order by the slice or buy a whole pizza to take home. Even better, the service offends born-and-bred New Yorkers. $

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria
4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0550. A past winner of the "best bakery in the East Bay" category of the Express Best of the East Bay awards, Arizmendi — named for Basque priest/labor organizer Father José Arizmendiarrieta — is a worker-owned cooperative first conceived in 1997 by workers from Berkeley's famous Cheeseboard Collective. Although a full array of sweet and savory baked goods is on offer here — from baguettes to macaroons — thin-crusted artisanal pizza is the main attraction. Only one topping combo is available every day and that combo changes every day and it's always creative, featuring such components as roasted red onions, shiitake mushrooms, cheddar cheese, and arugula. If you're not the take-what-comes/go-with-the-flow type, check out the whole month's pizza menu online. $

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BoilerHouse Restaurant
1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, 510-215-6000. The southern end of Richmond's old Ford assembly plant has been converted into an impressive yet casual industrial-chic event space and restaurant where one can dine on good American grub while enjoying beautiful vistas of the harbor, the bay, and the Berkeley hills. Yummy snacks include sliders, drumettes, and sweet potato fries; skirt steak, Cajun shrimp, and a thin-crusted apple-blue-cheese pizza are fine entrée options. Desserts are just so-so, but the cocktails are tasty and inventive. Friendly professional service. $$

Boot and Shoe Service
3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-763-2668. Inventive, California style thin-crust pizzas are the focus of Charlie (Pizzaiolo) Hallowell's latest endeavor. Monterey Bay squid, wild nettles, Calabrian peppers and egg, potatoes, and pancetta are among the organic ingredients used to top off the tender, chewy house crust. Appetizers such as fritto misto or house-made burrata show the same quality as their Pizzaiolo cousins. Intriguing wine and cocktail list. The attached Boot and Shoe Café offers pristine espresso and pour-over coffee from Sightglass, house-baked pastries, and a couple of hot breakfast and lunch specials. $$

The Bread Project Cafe
1701 [illegible], Berkeley, 510-644-4575. Located in the Berkeley Adult School's hangar-like and mostly empty multipurpose room, this inspiring little outfit paired with a non-profit serves bargain-price breakfasts and lunches along with soup, pizza, and a wide variety of baked goods — made by ex-prison inmates, ex-drug addicts, the formerly homeless, and others who once found themselves down and out. You can't beat the thick-crusted personal pizza, a complete meal topped with meat and/or pickled red onion and hefty goat-cheese chunks. And the tasty baked goods span a wide gamut from stollen to Anzac cookies to rye bread. $

Bucci's
6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725. The classic neighborhood trattoria blown up big, with the dated look of 1980s postmod: neon, faux marble, and Doric columns made of filmy Plexiglas. The menu, however, isn't showing its age a bit. Paul Camardo and Mark Valentine's circa-1988 Cal-Ital cooking is all about cheese-plush pizzas with vivid toppings, pastas scattered with a kaleidoscope of ingredients, and simple entrée plates bearing hefty slabs of protein. No longer stylish, Bucci's is free to concentrate on just being good. $$$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective
1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3183. A line snakes out the door and down the sidewalk. Those in it realize that only one item is sold here, always only one, although it alters slightly every day. Because all the tables here are almost always occupied, customers carry their pizza outside into the road and eat it on the traffic median. Serving pizza by the pie, half-pie, and slice, this is one of the East Bay's favorite pizza places. Tourists come from all over the world as well, drawn by tales of a worker-owned, bossless bakery in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto where mostly organic vegetables, herbs, and cheeses from around the world compose a different meatless seasonal pizza every day. The one-choice policy: awesome if you like surprises, sucks if you hate yam pizza, say, or pear. Arrive on a day when you like its components, and every bite chortles with flavor. $

East End Pizza Co.
1650 Park St., Alameda, 510-263-9631. Given how polished his thin-crust pies are, you'd never know Paul Mancuso has zero experience as a pizzaiolo. From a stall in the Alameda Marketplace, Mancuso turns out a short menu of pies that change with the seasons, cooked in a wood-burning oven. The style is a sort of New York-California hybrid — toppings that might be Venetian Sottocenere cheese and leeks, or housemade loukanika sausage, Ligurian olives, and lemon zest, but applied with such a light hand they don't overload Mancuso's thin, crisp, evenly brown crusts. $$

Gioia Pizzeria
1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4692. Sold by the slice and by the pie, Will Gioia's thin-crust pizza has the body of a New Yorker but the soul of a Berkeleyan. Brooklyn-born Gioia scores marks with Manhattanites for his crisp, blistered crust and thinly layered sauce and cheese. But he makes the pizzas with organic flour and seasonal veggies, coming up with heretically delicious West Coast combinations. $

Jupiter
2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. Just a stone's throw from UC Berkeley, the local talent checks itself out at this upstairs-downstairs-and-outdoors pub, washing down wood-fired pizza, focaccia sandwiches, and salads with the outpourings of 32 taps, including 9 brews made right here. A crackling open fire on the patio out back perfumes the air for a city block, helping make this a first-class fave. $$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub
2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652; 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350; 1051 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-8375; 536 Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-899-4801; 3645 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-594-9400. Lanesplitter isn't just a pizzeria, it's a lifestyle. The crackly thin-crust pizzas, sold by the slice and by the pie, are quite the draw, but not the main one. Everyone, from art students to young families, shows up at the three sit-down locations — big, quirky, and instantly comfortable — to hang out for hours, chatting over their veggie combos and pitchers of local microbrews. $

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Stag's Lunchette
302 17th St., Oakland, 510-835-7824. Stag's Lunchette is a meat-centric sandwich shop, but above all it's a place where, according to chef-owner Alexeis Filipello, all of the meat is proof meat: cruelty-free, hormone-free, antibiotic-free. Just about everything is brined/cured/dry rubbed/smoked/etc. in-house, and for a place with a tiny kitchen, the restaurant's ambitiousness is impressive. The sandwich menu changes at least once a week, so you can never be sure what will be in the current rotation, but — when available — the butter-and-devil-glaze-basted pastrami (with a funky "piquant" dressing) and the tender, Mediterranean-inspired roasted lamb (with tahini and spicy roasted tomatoes) are both surefire winners. And don't sleep on the breakfast menu. The perfectly-constructed Baron's Baking bagel platter and the super-fresh house-made [illegible] are both spectacular. $-$$

L & L Chinese Seafood Restaurant
10181 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-8832. Experienced dim sum devotees tend to value consistency and predictability. Above all else, they crave well executed versions of familiar favorites. For this workmanlike approach, avoid the crowds in Oakland Chinatown and head up to El Cerrito's L & L Chinese Seafood Restaurant, where you'll find low prices, a low-key atmosphere and a standard array of dim sum specialties. Ordering off L & L's checklist menu is less fun than the cart service you'll find at other dim sum houses, but the upside is that each item is cooked to order. Highlights include the impeccably fresh shrimp-rice noodle roll, the pan-fried turnip cakes, and the aptly named "deep-fried savory triangles" (sticky sweet glutinous rice-cake ovals with a delicious ground-pork filling). You'll never have to wait for a table — heck, there's even a small parking lot. $-$$

Hopscotch
1915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-788-6217. At first glance Hopscotch may seem like a weird combination of seemingly disparate elements: a retro Fifties diner aesthetic, a cocktail-centric bar program, and, most importantly, Chef Kyle Itani's Northern California-inflected Asian fusion menu, which shares little in common with the heavy-handed old-school fusion cooking that was popular a decade ago. Instead, Itani creates dishes in which Japanese elements are incorporated with a dash of whimsy, but also with precision and restraint: duck-fat potato chips with pure chicken paté with [illegible] made in a traditional Japanese pickle press, or a burger topped with griddled beef tongue. Meanwhile, despite the casual setting, the service — headed up by co-owner Jenny Schwarz — is one of the best and friendliest in town. $$-$$$

Paisan
2514 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-649-1031. The thin-crust pizza concept from the Ki Restaurant Group (Sea Salt, T-Rex, Lalime's, etc.) serves a sort of hybrid Neapolitan-NorCal pie, showcasing farm-fresh produce and high-end proteins on the chewy sort of crust Californians seem to prefer. The space is handsome, with exposed brick, rough timbers, and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on San Pablo Avenue, but the quality of the pizzas varies (rule of thumb here: the more toppings the better). The day starts with a casual breakfast, featuring Blue Bottle coffee, sweets from the Ki pastry department, and a couple of egg dishes. $$

Spoon Korean Bistro
933 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-604-4555. When Chi Moon and Jiwon Oh opened Sobang Avenue's Bowl'd, their mission was to make lesser-known Korean dishes accessible to an American audience. They've kept the same philosophy for *Spoon Korean Bistro*, their lower-priced, more casual sister restaurant. Spoon is one of the only places around where you can eat Korean food at 8 o'clock in the morning, but the restaurant's many elegant variations of *juk* (Korean rice porridge) and its later-entrance and fresh veggie-filled *kimbap* (Korean-style sushi rolls) hit the spot at any time of day. The restaurant also serves an array of street-snack-inspired small bites and — yes — sumptuously good barbecue. $-$$

District
827 Washington St., Oakland 510-272-9110. For the longest time, it's been de rigueur to say a place has good food *for a bar* — a backhanded compliment if I've ever heard one. District, a wine bar in Old Oakland, has good food, period — especially chef Bob Cina's playful interpretations of French bistro fare. The steak tartare, for instance, is one of the best in the city — coarsely hand-cut, topped with a fried quail egg, and seasoned with mellow, fruity violet mustard. District's house-made charcuterie also is not to be missed, especially the slightly boozy truffled chicken-liver mousse. And customers just grabbing a snack at the bar could do worse than an order of fries, a textbook-perfect version served with a surprisingly light truffled Parmesan aioli for dipping. $$-$$$

Pepe's Pizza
2530 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-644-9999. Costing less than round trip BART fare from Berkeley to San Francisco, this pizza/salad/taco buffet might be the best deal in town. The salad bar offers a vat of iceberg, another of assorted greens, and a dozen-plus more bearing other components. Five pizzas with meat toppings, five without, plus no-frills butter-brushed sweet pizza, are refreshed and replaced every fifteen minutes. A nacho machine and taco bar expand the majority with beef, boiled beans, sour cream, salsa, chopped veggies, and shredded cheese. Cold-drink machines disgorge twelve different beverages, and soft-serve ice cream comes in two flavors. A gigantic flat-screen TV airs sports constantly, which is distracting — but rugs absorb much of the sound, so you can actually relax here. The price is certainly relaxing. $

Pizzaiolo
5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888. Charlie Hallowell loved working the ovens at Chez Panisse so much he made them the focus of his own restaurant, a former hardware store stripped down to its brick walls and built back into a casual, stylish space. Pizzaiolo's pizza is good combinations like homemade sausage and mustard greens are both popular and refined — but the antipasto platter, baked pastas, and entrées, all made from whatever local products are at their finest, merit equal billing. If only Pizzaiolo would take reservations. $$-$$$

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Rotten City Pizza
6613 Hollis St., Emeryville 510-655-2489. 6613 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-655-2489. Emeryville's reigning pizza champ is a hybrid, merging the New York-style slice aspirations of Brooklyn-born Jonas Bernstein with the Cal-cuisine pedigree of Chef John "Kreit" (Pizzaiolo, Pizzeria Delfina). The fancy doesn't quite hold up with the thin crust on the margherita not able to withstand the thick coating of sauce. But once Stern starts working his magic on the combos, look out. The Calabrian pizza is a fun [illegible], with a house-made Italian sausage (ground with paprika, fennel, and Szeged pork shoulder), Gaeta olives (striking, though milder than a Kalamata), potent Calabrian chilies, and a sprinkling of toasted fennel seeds. $$

Rustica
5422 College Ave., Oakland 510-654-1601. It may be *rustica*, but the pizza here is fine stuff. This popular College Avenue pizzeria painted a cheery Tuscan yellow bakes up thin-crust pizzas topped with intriguing combinations of the freshest ingredients. The crisp wheat and crumbly cornmeal crusts are both worth a try, as are the selection of inexpensive Italian and Californian wines you'd never find at your local Domino's. For the gluten-free crowd, Rustica's specially made crust (which only comes in the ten-inch size and costs an extra $4.75) is a heavenly treat, resembling focaccia. It could trick even the most wheat-devoted. Call ahead to check for availability. $-$$

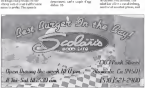
Spettro
3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-7738. Friend of parents everywhere, Spettro has remained one of the East Bay's most kid-friendly bistros for more than a decade. Its menu starts in Italy, heavy on the pizzas and greens, but picks from points east and south of us to do that funky multicultural Californian fusion thing. The quality of the food varies, but the low-key, friendly atmosphere doesn't. Kids love the peanut-butter and bacon pizza and parents love the prompt, unflappable service and affordable wine list. $$

Summer Kitchen Bake Shop
2944 College Ave., Berkeley 510-981-0538. A summer spent on Martha's Vineyard inspired the look and feel of this gourmet takeaway, a labor of love for former Chez Panisse pastry chef Charlene Reis and her husband Paul Arenstam, who left a gig as executive chef at Hotel Vitale's Americano Restaurant to focus on this quaint purveyor of fancy-restaurant-quality meals meant to be eaten elsewhere. Menus change monthly, but always include [illegible] pasta, pizza, salads, sandwiches, and side dishes. Picnic provisions include fried Fulton Valley chicken and grass-fed Hearst Ranch meatballs. Topping it off is Blue Bottle coffee and unapologetically indulgent desserts such as chocolate-caramel tarts and lemon-meringue cupcakes. $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza
1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950; 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385; 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon, 925-244-1222. Winning nearly every popularity poll, Zachary's three locations have been packed at dinnertime for more than twenty years. Chicago-style "stuffed" pizza, with fillings between two dough layers, are the main draw, accompanied by Berkeley-style salads and good cheap wine. If you can't handle the hour-long wait, pick up a half baked pie to finish in your oven. Despite — or maybe because of — the ruckus, Zachary's is a family and first-date favorite. $-$$

Zza's Trattoria
552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. Zza's is everything a neighborhood restaurant should be: affordable, friendly, and above all, tasty. It's not swank but it's comfortable — and to thrill the young'uns, the waiters flip on the electrical fireworks at lunch. Zza's offers a mix of salads, pastas, calzones, and thin-crust individual pizzas; much of the pasta is made by hand. Your kids will love it, and you won't have to sacrifice your own tastes to indulge them. $$ ●

Price Key
Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50



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The patio's feature aging furniture and hodgepodgey wall decorations. Ellen Cushing

LAST CALL

SOMETHING OLD

Excellent anachronism at Schmidt's Tobacco and Trading.

By Ellen Cushing

The Pub's official name is Schmidt's Tobacco and Trading, but nobody ever calls it that. To the regulars — and they are legion, many reportedly coming in every day — it's simply The Pub, which is sort of wonderful in its definitiveness: *The* Pub; you only need one.

The Pub sits in a white house on a quiet stretch of Solano Avenue just west of the Albany-Berkeley border, and it is basically your living room but better. Once a house and never really remodeled, it's composed of a succession of smaller rooms rather than one big one, each with worn hardwood floors and comfy furniture and nice natural light and excellent knickknackery: Chinese lanterns above the tobacco bar, faded paintings of wind-whipped ships near the bathrooms, most of origin unknown to anyone who works there. Also like a house: Credit cards aren't accepted and there's no website. There's also no hard liquor, just a bunch of beers and wines, and, as its name indicates, The Pub is also a tobacconist, offering, at any given time, about a dozen varieties foreign and domestic, as well as pipes, rolling papers, cigars, and the like, sitting in a glass case as if sent here from another time — one none of us can necessarily remember, but which all of our grandfathers can: when things were built to last and it was perfectly acceptable to sit down at a bar with a big pipeful of tobacco and a Guinness after a long day. Out front, there's a tree-shaded, bulb-lit patio for smoking, and another, smaller one out back, all of them possessing of their own aging furniture and hodgepodgey wall art. It should come as no surprise that this used to be an antique store, and that the people who come tend to stay for hours.

Humans-wise, it's also hodgepodgey, and also in that distinctly organic-feeling way. On any given evening near the bookcase in the front room, maybe there'll be two or three people quietly reading, curled up close on worn velvet chairs, or a multigenerational group playing a spirited game of Monopoly over foamy beers, or a knitting club having its monthly meeting, all tiny sweaters and clacking needles and tinkling laughter. And at the other side of the room, near a grandfather clock that looks as though it could stop working and/or topple over at any minute, a pair of guys — the kind of guys that seem to exist only in Berkeley or technically Albany: white-bearded and sweatpanted — discuss economic policy; next to them, someone with the right idea annotates a beat-up copy of *The Canterbury Tales* between big gulps of wine. The place is designed to be this way, according to a fastidious and cheerful barkeep, to be "a friendly kind of place, a chatting kind of place, very in touch with the 20th-century pub aesthetic." There's no wi-fi as a matter of principle (and despite the fact that this would be a pretty wonderful place to bring a computer and try to be productive, fueled by tobacco and booze), the tables are meant to be shared.

The bartender says she worked at lots of other places and has never found one with such a strong community. They do each other favors, the barkeep says without elaboration, and when they're on vacation they write in. Their postcards, now squeezed two or three or four to a pushpin on a back wall — each with their own non sequitur or story to tell, their sloping script and decidedly analog medium already feeling like another artifact of a recently bygone era. "Holy shit! I am in Paris!" marvels Anna on the one with a surreally grandiose Eiffel Tower. S writes from Astoria, Oregon with news that this town, despite being the purported setting of the movie *The Goonies*, looks nothing like the film. Someone with terrible penmanship offers to pick up some "collectibles for the Pub" from Arizona; another declares Ireland to be "beautiful" and "wet." Raveet, meanwhile, writes from Egypt: "Camel milk: It isn't as Guinness." Indeed. ●

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

Schmidt's Tobacco and Trading
1492 Solano Ave
Albany
510-525-1900
Hours: Sun.-Wed., noon-midnight; Thu.-Sat., noon-1 a.m.

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Beer Market With local craft beer, Fonga... sausage, DJ Calvin Coolidge, vintage ... art, and more. Saturday, 2-8 p.m. free. Classic Cars West, 411 26th St., Oakland, 415-... CassieCarnival.com.

Eat Off Broadway With rotating food trucks including Tina Tamale, Fry's of the Bay, Hella Breakfast Truck, Cosecha, ... Go Streatery, ... Pot of Flour, and more. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 12. 510-... EatOffBroadway.com. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland, 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Market Cupping An expert from Mahmood Coffee hosts a cupping of all single-origin coffees available at Awaken. First Friday of every month, noon, free. Awaken Cafe, 1429 Broadway, Oakland, 510-893-1448. AwakenCafe.com.

Las Mercedes Grower Dinner With a Chilean wine dinner featuring the wines of Las Mercedes. Owner Julio Bouchon visits from Chile. Sat., Sept. 8, 1 p.m., $65. Bocanova, 55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233. Bocanova.com.

Northern California Beer Professionals ... four-course dinner ... Oakland ... benefit for St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County's Kitchen of Champions Culinary Training Program. Fri., Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m., $85. Eventbrite.com/event/4037441738. Jack London Square, 00 Broadway, Oakland.

Oliveto's It's Complicated Series: "Grass-Fed Beef" With a discussion from the hurdles faced by ranchers, butchers, chefs, and consumers in establishing a ... small-producer beef economy with conventional animal-welfare protocols. Sat., Sept. 8, 2-3:30 p.m., $10. Market ... 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356. Oliveto.com.

Pop-Up Beer Market Fresh local and imported artisan beers and wines by the glass or carafe. Thursdays, 5-11 p.m. Local 123, 2049 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-640-5210. Local123Gallery.com.

Rick's Supper Club With a five-course family-style menu featuring wines from Tudal Winery and Corvidae Cellars and produce from All Star Organics. Thu., Sept. 6, 7 p.m., $58. Bocanova, 55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233. Bocanova.com.

Ripe for the Picking A talking and cook-book presentation with food writers Cheryl Sternman Rule and Paulette Phlipot. Sun., Sept. 9, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Street Food Tuesdays With food truck-inspired small-plates served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, $3-$8, 400-550 ... Paragon Restaurant, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585. ParagonRestaurant.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Oakland Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family ... Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market ... Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

Albany Farmers' Market With local, seasonal produce and prepared foods. On Solano Avenue between San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street. Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 31. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

BAHIA Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs ... stands in Berkeley-area neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-0784. EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Oakland Institute for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley, 510-528-5869. BAHIAinc.com.

BYA Farm Fresh Market Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in low-income neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-849-8154. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-845-9010. BYAonline.org.

Farmers Albertine Farm Fresh Market Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., free. 510-843-1134. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley, 510-981-5150. CI.Berkeley.CA.US.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and Oakland fruit, vegetables, local products, and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-535-0829. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland, 510-... UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Oakland Hosts more than 70 Oakland produce booths and arts and crafts. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 415-... SplashPad.org/farmersmarket. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-238-7275. Grandlakefm.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Kaiser Permanente Produce Farmers Market With vendors selling fresh all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 3600 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Oakland Market With fresh flowers, an organic cheesemaker, free products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, honey, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and Oakland surprises. The ground and ... live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-841-0001. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Arlington Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market With certified organic Oakland from ... organic farms and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-482-5488. FoodCommonsCulture.org. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Farmers parking at Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, La Salle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With ... specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Alameda Hospital Oakland Market EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m., free. 510-250-7907. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North Oakland Phat 'N' Oakland Market With a healthy cafe and community kitchen space, seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms, and fine prepared goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. 942 Stanford Ave., 942 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Oakland Community Produce Stand With organic local produce, free samples, and cooking demonstrations. Wednesdays, 2-5:30 p.m. Continues through June 30, free. St. Martin de Porres School, 675 41st St., Oakland, 510-652-2120. STMDP.org.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Features seasonal produce, breads, oils and other organic foods, along with plenty of Oakland. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St., Oakland, Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. Oakland. Together.com/markets/old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, vegan. Market, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 00 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Produce Market WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers Market, 25th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-236-4050. RichmondMainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 13th Street and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Oakland Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-981-5101. CI.Berkeley.ca.us.

South Berkeley Oakland Market With fresh Oakland and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers Market, Adeline and 63rd sts., Berkeley, 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-745-9170. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

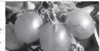
Tuesday Berkeley Oakland Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, pastries, bands, and more for sale, plus plus programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby and Adeline streets, Berkeley, 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Youth-Led Farm Stand The fresh farm stand, in the heart of the Foothill Square neighborhood, Oakland seasonal produce, from Hospital farmers and some urban gardens, along with food dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 10730 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommonsCulture.com. ●

PICK

Rick's Supper Club

Thursday, Sept. 6 is the first Thursday of the month, meaning it's time for another incarnation of Rick's Supper Club — a specially themed prix-fixe experience — at Bocanova (55 Webster St., Oakland). Starting with a spectacular cocktail devised by Bocanova's bar manager, Stella Davies, who is renowned for her use of produce in drinks, the five-course extravaganza features dishes crafted by chef/co-owner Rick Hackett that include an array of locally grown vegetables from All Star Organics. 7 p.m. $58. 510-444-1233 or Bocanova.com. — *Azeen Rafiat*



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MURG DO PYAZA Boneless organic chicken pieces cooked in a sauce made with onions, ginger, garlic, peppercorns and spices, served topped with caramelized onions, cashews, and sunflower seeds (Hyderabad)

SAMBHAR WITH VEGETABLES Toor daal (a type of lentil) cooked with spices, including asafetida, and fenugreek seeds, tamarind, and organic vegetables including carrots, eggplant, green beans (South India) (Vegan)

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THE VAGINA DIALOGUES

Sex sells (*For a Good Time, Call ...*). So do pretty pictures of the Earth (*Samsara*)

By Kelly Vance

For a Good Time, Call ... is a movie that probably should have been made around 1980, when phone sex was still somewhat of a novelty. But there are two good reasons why Lauren Miller and Katie Anne Naylon's screenplay needed to cool its heels until now: 1) It was waiting for American popular culture to catch up with female, middle-class sitcom characters who could natter casually about blow jobs and woman-on-woman sexual attraction, and 2) Ari Graynor.

Ms. Graynor, the stick of personality dynamite in such films as *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, *Conviction*, *The Sitter*, and *Celeste & Jesse Forever*, continues to carve out a notable career portraying various slutty teenagers, backseat Bettys, and drunken Jersey girls. As a loud-mouth Jewish American Ugly-Duckling Princess with a talent for the putdown, she's the latest in a long line, from Shelley Winters to Sylvia Miles to Bette Midler to Julia Louis-Dreyfus. A slut supreme with an ingratiating tendency toward self-deprecation. When Graynor cuts somebody up, they stay cut and can actually laugh about it. That's why she's so much in demand in the quicksilver demimonde of comic chick flicks.

It's the old mismatched roomies routine when Manhattan editorial type Lauren (well played by writer-actor Miller) suddenly gets laid off and dumped by her superficial boyfriend in the same week, and is forced to move in with looser-goosey Katie (Graynor), a loathsome acquaintance from her college days. The rent-controlled apartment of Katie's deceased Bubby resembles the lobby of the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach in 1963, but at least Lauren gets her own room. Katie makes ends meet with a string of part-time jobs at mall shops and such. Lauren is getting nowhere applying for nonexistent publishing internships. They're both open to suggestions.

That's why the idea of starting their own phone-sex operation makes eminent sense. Using Lauren's entrepreneurial acumen, Katie's party-girl attitude, and their combined showbiz flair, the two young women install a dial-up (1-877-MMM-HMMM), launch an ad campaign, and immediately start making semi-serious coin by talking dirty to a variety of big-city guy customers. They [illegible] a gay phone role for Katie's buddy Jesse (versatile Justin Long), but there are more than enough plot wrinkles to go around.

Samsara is one in a long line of New Age doc-polemics, but new film technology makes it stand out.

For a Good Time, Call ...

Directed by Jamie Travis. With Ari Graynor and Lauren Miller.

Opens Friday.

Samsara

Directed by Ron Fricke.

Opens Friday.

We find ourselves in the middle of a likable, lightweight comedy that flies on Graynor's machine-gun delivery and the slightly more demure presence of co-writer Miller, both of them directed with a soft touch by Toronto-to-Hollywood filmmaker Jamie Travis. Naughty but nice, just like Katie and Lauren. If you're not familiar with terms like "has-bian" or "frenemy," all the more reason to catch this ditzy cream-filled pastry.

Success breeds further quirkiness. A slightly dubious-looking sex kitten named Krissy (the wonderfully named Sugar Lyn Beard) joins the growing operation. Seth Rogen and Kevin Smith make cameo appearances, cementing the idea that this is the obvious flipside of a young male laffer. Against her better judgment Katie dates a regular customer she's curious about, Sean (Mark Webber). Everybody smokes weed daily. Lauren's suburban parents (Mimi Rogers, Don McManus) have a knack for dropping in unannounced and catching the girls with their pants down.

Speaking of which: In the days of *When Harry Met Sally* and *Clueless*, characters like these didn't deal much with bi-curious tendencies beyond using them as the basis for malicious personal gibes or as non-sequiturs. Last year's big hit *Bridesmaids* opened the door. In *For a Good Time, Call ...*, Lauren and Katie invert the bromance cliché of two guys looking into each other's eyes and murmuring "I love you, dude" and take it to plateaus seldom seen outside the Frameline film festival. On them it looks good.

Ever since Godfrey Reggio's *Koyaanisqatsi* burst on the scene back in 1982, that documentary and its many offshoots have collectively served as a convenient pop-cultural separator, the critical equivalent of an electrified barbed wire fence.

On one side of the fence, the doc — a montage of images carefully edited together to promote the concept that the Earth and its inhabitants are living a "life out of balance" — impressed audiences not only with its gorgeous, juxtaposed images of things like peaceful clouds and bustling cities and its Philip Glass music score but also with the urgency of its implied warning. Don't be like that, scolded *Koyaanisqatsi*, *Powaqqatsi*, *Naqoyqatsi*, and a seemingly never-ending procession of imitators; be like this instead. Thus was born the New Age doc-polemic, a sturdy subgenre that evolved into such sub-subgenres as the hyperlink drama (*Syriana*, *Babel*, etc.) as well as variations on filmmaker Reggio's original formula. For example, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Whether movie fans actually followed the ecological advice or simply grooved on the pretty pictures and then forgot all about it is open to question.

The other side of the fence is populated by wretched cynics unmoved by ancient Hopi laments and instinctively wary of anything that smacks of groupthink, however well-intentioned. To them, it's a shame that sulfur miners are suffering somewhere in the world, but what's that got to do with me?

Most people, of course, straddle this fence. We're merely looking for a relatively entertaining night at the movies, which is where *Samsara* comes in. Its director and co-writer Ron Fricke served as a writer and cinematographer on *Koyaanisqatsi* and made several similar docs, including 1992's *Baraka* — so his message is pretty clear. What has changed since then, and what makes *Samsara* worth seeing even for skeptics, is the technology. The new film's small-world visual bath of Balinese dancers, volcanoes, the palace of Versailles, factories, farms, prisoner chorus lines, ruins, etc., has been photographed in digitalized Panavision Super 70 and it is beautiful in the extreme, a revelation in high-def. Because of this, *Samsara* absolutely must be seen on the largest screen you can possibly find. Watching it on a handheld device would be something akin to listening to a world-class concert on a transistor radio.

As for Fricke's conclusions, they seem to be: Belief systems are wide and varied, the earth is overpopulated, and life is not fair, but there it is. Pretty much what Reggio was on about. Those who ate up Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life* are possibly already standing in line for this one, as well they should. ■

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

Branded Dystopian thriller following a man who goes up against the corporate overlords running the world. Written and directed by Jamie Bradshaw and Aleksandr Dulerayn; starring [illegible], Ingeborga Dapkunaite, and Max von Sydow. (106 min.)

The Words A struggling writer (Bradley Cooper) steals another man's work ... and finds himself grappling with consequences good and bad. Written and directed by Brian Klugman and Lee Sternthal; also starring Zoe Saldana. ([illegible] min.)

ONGOING

2 Days in New York Chris Rock and Julie Delpy make an energetic, [illegible], thoroughly 21st-century screwball comedy couple, as a [illegible] radio talk-show host and his [illegible] girlfriend forced to endure her [illegible] relatives visiting from France. The screenplay, by director Delpy and actor-writer Alexandre Nahon, needs a little more work, but once the [illegible], including Delpy's real-life father, Albert Delpy, start spinning [illegible] and jabbering, the [illegible] about [illegible] and we can go along for the ride. Even if it seems like *2 Days in New York*. (K.V.)

2016: Obama's America Conservative pundit [illegible] D'Souza [illegible] doomsday [illegible] would happen to the country were Obama to win a second term.

Bachelorette Comedy about three women who are unexpectedly asked to be bridesmaids for a high-school classmate. Written and directed by Leslye Headland; starring Kirsten Dunst, Isla Fisher, and Lizzy Caplan.

Beasts of the Southern Wild [illegible] is a [illegible], hallucinatory family story by [illegible] Benh Zeitlin. Six-year-old Hushpuppy (played beautifully by first-timer Quvenzhané Wallis) and her [illegible] father Wink (Dwight Henry, also a non-actor) live a [illegible] existence in a Louisiana Gulf Coast [illegible] village called the Bathtub, surrounded by [illegible] neighbors and [illegible]. In Hushpuppy's case, by nightmares of [illegible] animals. But big changes are [illegible]. The child's adventures [illegible]. Directed by Zeitlin and Lucy Alibar from the latter's stage play. Juicy & Delicious [illegible] take on the trappings of a fairy tale, a child's point of view of a [illegible]. The character parts are filled by perfectly cast amateurs, and the music score by Zeitlin and Dan Romer is superb. A one-of-a-kind something. (91 min.) (K.V.)

Bill W. An [illegible] documentary [illegible] the life and times of William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. Through co-directors Kevin Hanlon and Dan Carracino's montage of the photos, vintage voice tapes, and talking heads, we learn about [illegible] spiritual aspect of AA's program of treating "the obsession of drinking." Wilson's efforts to open AA to women and minorities in the post-WWII era, and that Wilson experimented with LSD [illegible] for him it was an alternate path to faith. This [illegible] informative doc might have worked just as effectively as a book or magazine article [illegible]. (104 min.) (K.V.)

The Bourne Legacy [illegible] actor Jeremy Renner [illegible] have quite the same [illegible] as Matt Damon [illegible] so this Jason Bourne-less sequel to the popular spy trilogy [illegible] something, and it [illegible]. Screenwriter/director Tony Gilroy [illegible] who's both [illegible] agent for [illegible] national security bureaucrats back home (Edward Norton, Stacy Keach), needs to get [illegible] and "chems" and "program" [illegible]. [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com, or by scanning the code below [illegible] and they run: [illegible] adventures with wolves in the snow and the [illegible] through [illegible] are well up to standard, and [illegible] but somehow we miss the Bourne [illegible] It'll have to do. Directed by Tony Gilroy from a screenplay with Dan Gilroy (Tony's brother), inspired by [illegible] novels. Also with Scott Glenn, [illegible] and Louis Ozawa Changchien as [illegible] (135 min.) (K.V.)

Brave Pixar's big animated footprint, this time [illegible] as a Scottish [illegible] who is trying to [illegible] her kingdom. Directed by Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman, and Steve Purcell; written by Andrews, Chapman, Purcell, and Irene Mecchi; voices by Emma Thompson and Kelly Macdonald. (100 min.)

The Campaign Cag-blind political satire and [illegible] two Southern congressional candidates [illegible] Will Ferrell and a harmless twink [illegible] Galifianakis) hired by business interests [illegible] the election and do what he's told. Ferrell [illegible] good in this type of low-down comedy [illegible] as the [illegible] Dan Aykroyd, John Lithgow, Dylan McDermott, Sarah Baker, and Karen Maruyama. [illegible] Too, the rich man's maid. A few brilliant [illegible] but director Jay Roach [illegible] quite sustain the outrageous humor [illegible] final quarter. Blame that on writers Chris Henchy, Shawn Harwell, and Adam McKay. (85 min.) (K.V.)

Celeste and Jesse Forever Comedy-drama [illegible] a [illegible] couple (Rashida Jones and Andy Samberg) as they attempt to navigate their [illegible] and new relationships post-divorce. [illegible] by Lee Toland Krieger; written by Jones and Will McCormack; also starring Elijah Wood. [illegible]

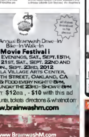
Cosmopolis A financial master-of-the-universe type [illegible] Novelist Don DeLillo, [illegible] and adapter by screenwriter-director David Cronenberg, doesn't tell us anything we didn't [illegible] Robert [illegible] like Wall Street [illegible] Eric Packer (Robert Pattinson), except that he really, really [illegible] get a haircut in that little neighborhood [illegible] and will endure all sorts of danger [illegible] In his stretch limo with [illegible] and bodyguards [illegible] Paul Giamatti and Mathieu Amalric [illegible] Eric's journey to [illegible] and we never find [illegible] Pattinson [illegible] Twilight [illegible] But he doesn't [illegible] himself, either. With a supporting cast [illegible] Sarah Gadon, Samantha [illegible] Jay Baruchel, and Kevin Durand. [illegible] (108 min.) (K.V.)

The Dark Knight Rises From its James-Bond-ish [illegible] political [illegible] to a takeover of the [illegible] Exchange to the [illegible] Bane (Tom Hardy [illegible] face and voice masking). Head [illegible] Christopher Nolan [illegible] to put a [illegible] Batman/ Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale again), his band of [illegible] A [illegible] Wall Street [illegible] Gotham City, and they hash [illegible] Catwoman (Anne Hathaway), Alfred the butler (Michael Caine), and [illegible] Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman). [illegible] and there are some [illegible] The movie is also [illegible] used, say, a total ten minutes' worth [illegible] in its two-and-a-half-hour [illegible] Nolan's screenplay (written with [illegible] Nolan) is more interesting [illegible] worth [illegible] but of course you have [illegible] Also [illegible] Marion Cotillard, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Morgan Freeman, [illegible] Matthew Modine [illegible] (164 min.) (K.V.)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days The [illegible] Greg (Zachary Gordon) as he [illegible] with family [illegible] Directed by David Bowers, adapted from the novel by Jeff Kinney [illegible] and Gabe Sachs; [illegible] Robert Capron, Steve Zahn, [illegible] Harris, and Steve Zahn.

The Expendables 2 Sequel to the [illegible] of its men [illegible] Directed by Simon West, [illegible] Sylvester Stallone, [illegible] and Jason Statham, and Jet Li. [illegible]

Farewell, My Queen Part of the [illegible] of [illegible] this "other side of history" [illegible] the midst of the [illegible] Revolution is in knowing [illegible] Marie Antoinette (Diane Kruger) and most of the rest of the royal court of Versailles are soon going to lose their [illegible] But the focus of director Benoit Jacquot's [illegible] is [illegible] Laborde (Léa Seydoux), the dauphine's



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editor of novels through whose eyes we observe the stressful, ironic, behind-the-scenes goings-on. Filmmaker Jacquot (Sade, *The School of Flesh*) and always and a slide for dressing ... and both Seydoux and Kruger luxuriate at the end-of-an-era mode, with major input by Virginie Ledoyen as Gabrielle de Polignac, the court play-girl. One of Jacquot's best. (99 min.) (K.V.)

Hit & Run Forced-frantic spoof of the outlaw only feels like a throwback to drive-in car-chase programmers of the Seventies (with latitude Tarantino-style touches). What it really is is a lighthearted comic romance between a former bank robber (played by writer/co-director Dax Shepard) and his girlfriend (Kristen Bell) with a violent fugitive (Bradley Cooper), a gay sheriff, a wonder-prone US Marshal (Tom Arnold), and not nearly enough heart-driving ... on a run from Milton, California to UCLA. Shepard and Bell make a cute couple, I guess, as ... on PC ... David Palmer ... with Shepard. A ... of hours, but don't think twice. (98 min.) (K.V.)

Hope Springs David Frankel proceeds a Shepard — starring Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, and Steve Carell — follows a middle-aged couple hoping to improve their decades-long relationship through a week-long counseling ... (100 min.)

Ice Age: Continental Drift More fun with climate change in the latest installment of the popular animated franchise, this time around with heroes Manny, Sid, and Diego embarking on an iceberg-bound adventure to find a new home after their continent breaks away. Directed by Steve Martino and Mike Thurmeier, written by Michael Berg and Jason Fuchs, starring the voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, and Denis Leary. (94 min.)

Killer Joe William Friedkin rides again. The ultimate of *The French Connection*, *The Exorcist*, and *To Live and Die in L.A.* reunites with playwright Tracy Letts (*Bug*) for this high-voltage more-ultimate ... which marries ... burlesque humor and gross-out excess in the story of a Texas trailer-trash family who hires a renegade cop hit man (Matthew McConaughey) to bump off the family's matriarch for the insurance money. McConaughey throws himself in the bad role, with vigorous support by Emile Hirsch, another famous Church, Gina Gershon, and Juno Temple as the family's jailbait teenage daughter. But it's the tandem of Letts and Friedkin that sets this hyper-potent ... apart. The film succeeds as a rare combination of glib, sleep-green writing, perfect casting, and the sort of directorial bravura that can ... through a gut-bucket gorgeous and perverse ... as a fairy tale. Friedkin's ... career shows no signs of slackening. One of the best films of 2012. (103 min.) (K.V.)

Lawless Has its heart basically in the right place but it's not a very good movie. Director John Hillcoat (*The Proposition*) wastes a lot of time in telling the true-ish violent story of the bootlegging Bondurant family of Franklin County, Virginia, circa 1931. Tom Hardy and ... are tough as nails as brothers Forrest and Howard Bondurant, but it's Shia LaBeouf as their insecure younger brother Jack who's the more carefully drawn character, especially when he's with the preacher's daughter, Bertha (Mia Wasikowska). It's probably impossible to make period tension like this without anachronisms ... the high-lonesome versions of the Velvet Underground's "White Light/White Heat" by bluegrass Stanley (Ralph Stanley) and singer Mark Lanegan as the main track. Acting overmuch is robot: Guy Pearce is more ... villain as ..., Gary Oldman is okay as local hood Floyd Banner and Jessica Chastain is a bit short-changed as hard luck gal Maggie. The screenplay, by rocker Nick Cave, is a gritty pudding, and Hillcoat never knows when to pull away from the grandiose carnage. (115 min.) (K.V.)

Little White Lies It must have seemed like a good idea at the time: for filmmaker Guillaume Canet (*Tell No One*) to remake Lawrence Kasdan's 1983 *The Big Chill* in French. And so we have to imagine a group of vacationing thirtysomethings — François Cluzet, Marion Cotillard, Benoît Magimel, Laurent Lafitte, et al. — acting out their frustrations while listening to American pop-song oldies and getting themselves into American sitcom-style semi-humorous pickles while their ... (Jean Dujardin) lies near death in the hospital. Scenes well but ... and ... dropped at least one of the subplots. The big difference between Canet's version and Kasdan's: the new one does not aspire to a statement about a generation, but just a ... of a bunch of self-centered people we're happy to ... from. Screenplay and direction by Canet. (154 min.) (K.V.)

Magic Mike Strengths-asper stripping ..., based on star Channing Tatum's real-life experience as a male exotic dancer. (That ... you hear is every straight woman and gay man frantically Fandango-ing.) Directed by Steven Soderbergh, written by Reid Carolin, also starring Alex Pettyfer and Olivia Munn. (110 min.)

Marvel's the Avengers Exactly the sum of its parts. Without Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man), Mark Ruffalo (... the Hulk), and Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow), this installment of Stan Lee's Marvel Comics superhero adventures would be just another superslickly produced ... dorky. But writer-director Joss Whedon's ...

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and museum [illegible] with Zak Penn, adapted from Lee and Jack Kirby's comic [illegible] the Hulk, and Black Widow do their thing, which involves saving Earth from [illegible] Loki (Tom Hiddleston) and a [illegible] called the Tesseract. [illegible] The two-and-a-half hours fly by with [illegible]. Also with Jeremy Renner [illegible], Samuel L. Jackson (Nick Fury), Chris Evans (Captain America), Chris Hemsworth (Thor), and [illegible] Gwyneth Paltrow as [illegible] Stark's [illegible] Pepper Potts. [illegible] (142 min.) (KV)

Moonrise Kingdom From the [illegible] and to the Wes Anderson [illegible] (The Darjeeling Limited, The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou) comes the tale of Suzy (Kara Hayward) and Sam (Jared Gilman), a pair of precocious teenage runaways who give everyone in the New England [illegible] Anderson's [illegible] dialogue [illegible] and the story [illegible] and Roman Coppola) are extremely [illegible] purpose. [illegible] animation à la Fantastic Mr. Fox [illegible] the art [illegible] is considerably more interesting than the story [illegible] Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, Bruce Willis, Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, Harvey Keitel and Ed Norton [illegible]. Come to think of it, that might not be [illegible] A step backward for Anderson. (93 min.) (KV)

The Odd Life of Timothy Green Sweet, bland and [illegible] Disney [illegible] isn't going to [illegible] anyone's equilibrium [illegible] It's refreshingly well-crafted and [illegible] A small-town [illegible] and wife (Joel Edgerton and Jennifer Garner), desperate to have a child [illegible] one night [illegible] a ten-year-old boy who [illegible] grew up out of the ground in their vegetable garden with leaves on his legs. Timothy (CJ Adams) has [illegible] It's okay to be different, and: Love and [illegible] And you see [illegible] Peter Hedges (What's Eating Gilbert Grape) wrote the screenplay from a story by Ahmet Zappa. Costarring [illegible] Rosemarie DeWitt [illegible] Lois Smith, Ron Livingston, and Odeya Rush as Timothy's girlfriend. [illegible] (100 min.) (KV)

The Oogieloves in the Big Balloon Adventure Kids [illegible] following [illegible] Oogieloves as they hunt for balloons for their friend's birthday party.

ParaNorman LAIKA [illegible] the Portland, Oregon [illegible] animation house that made Coraline, [illegible] with this [illegible] 3D effort, which [illegible] the same technology to tell the [illegible] story of a [illegible] kid with [illegible] ghosts. The [illegible] story line [illegible] [illegible] Norman (voice of Kodi Smit-McPhee) [illegible] in order to lift a witch's curse. [illegible] century [illegible] the gospel of the 21st-century [illegible] by [illegible] the walking dead. Co-directors Chris Butler (Coraline, Corpse Bride) and Sam Fell (The Tale of Despereaux) have [illegible] work. Screenplay by Butler. Also with the voices of Casey Affleck, John Goodman, and [illegible] (93 min.) (KV)

Premium Rush Wiley, [illegible] bicycle messenger in New York City (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) [illegible] delivery, but before he can take off a [illegible] figure (Michael Shannon) tries to take it from him. Wiley speeds off and they spend [illegible] of the movie [illegible] street-level tour of Manhattan Island [illegible] together the stories of a Chinese [illegible] (Jamie Chung), Shannon's cop-with-a-gambling-problem [illegible] and Wiley's gung-ho messenger rival [illegible] Wolé Parks. Fixed gears, steel frame, and non-stop [illegible] Try to spread [illegible] Run Lola Run and The Bicycle Thief that plays out in Chinatown and is more exciting than the [illegible] in The French Connection. Gordon-Levitt is very [illegible] and Shannon is [illegible] Writer-director David Koepp (Spider-Man, Ghost Town) [illegible] co-wrote the screenplay with John Kamps. (91 min.) (KV)

Red Hook Summer Spike Lee is coasting [illegible] Thirteen-year-old Atlanta resident Silas "Flik" Royale (Jules Brown) gets dumped off on the Red Hook Bible-thumping grandfather Bishop Enoch (Clarke Peters) for the summer and learns all [illegible] of things about living in the Brooklyn [illegible] (Toni Lysaith as Chazz Morningstar) and life in general. The [illegible] of the Bishop and Flik [illegible] (Thomas Jefferson Byrd) [illegible] entertaining, but after at least three [illegible] of gospel [illegible] the novelty wears off. [illegible] and Lysaith [illegible] directed by Lee [illegible] (121 min.) (KV)

Robot & Frank Sometime in the near future, a [illegible] citizen (Frank Langella) is [illegible] with a robot caretaker by his family, and after some adjustment Frank learns to admire his new [illegible] especially when it comes to his [illegible] with the old man's [illegible] burglary. [illegible] But there's no denying the [illegible] Langella and his [illegible] (voice of Peter Sarsgaard). The director, Jake Schreier, got his start in [illegible] Screenplay by TV [illegible] Christopher D. Ford. Also with Liv Tyler, James Marsden, and Susan Sarandon. (90 min.) (KV)

Ruby Sparks A [illegible] young Los Angeles novelist named Calvin (Paul Dano) [illegible] and [illegible] writer's block [illegible] perfect girlfriend [illegible] played by Zoe Kazan, who wrote the [illegible] Ruby [illegible] to life, [illegible] by rewriting her lines [illegible] Naturally [illegible] for Calvin, but even bigger [illegible] for the screenwriter and the directors, Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris (Little Miss Sunshine). Despite [illegible] and Kazan and the film's [illegible] (Steve Coogan, [illegible] Annette Bening, [illegible]) [illegible] (104 min.) (KV)

Sleepwalk With Me [illegible] playwright and stand-up [illegible] Mike Birbiglia [illegible] plays himself in this [illegible] an [illegible] on the Andy Kaufman [illegible] one of the most embarrassing performances ever [illegible] Birbiglia's character, Matt, has the vocal [illegible] His girlfriend Abby (Lauren Ambrose) and his parents (Carol Kane, James Rebhorn) [illegible] the poor Matt is driven into the [illegible] stand-up [illegible] and [illegible] He's [illegible] know whether to laugh [illegible] (Birbiglia and Seth Barrish. (80 min.) (KV)

Sparkle Dreamgirls-esque [illegible] drama [illegible] group's rise to the top — and all the [illegible]

Step Up [illegible] The fourth installment of the [illegible] dance-movie [illegible] (including "So You Think You Can Dance"'s Kathryn McCormick as the female lead) and a [illegible] McCormick's [illegible] Emily [illegible] of becoming a dancer and falls in with a [illegible] crew and its [illegible] leader [illegible] wealthy father [illegible] neighborhood. Directed by Scott Speer, written by Adam Sztykiel [illegible] Also starring Ryan Guzman, Patrick Wachsberger [illegible] and Adam G. Sevani. (100 min.)

Ted Seth MacFarlane comedy [illegible] teddy bear comes to life [illegible] MacFarlane, written by MacFarlane, Alec Sulkin, and Wellesley Wild, [illegible] Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, and Joel McHale.

To Rome With Love Woody Allen [illegible] Rome [illegible] gets stuck in a [illegible] with [illegible] comic pastiche [illegible] 17 characters [illegible] Allen's idea of the Eternal City. [illegible] an ordinary man suddenly and [illegible] elevated to celebrity status. But the "central" plot involving [illegible] visiting Americans Jesse Eisenberg, Ellen Page, Greta Gerwig, and Alec Baldwin — [illegible] the one we wanted to see [illegible] across the [illegible] It doesn't make it, though, and [illegible] Penélope Cruz as the [illegible] Alessandro Tiberi and his new bride Alessandra Mastronardi [illegible] the Allen character, a nervous music producer, [illegible] (Fabio Armiliato) [illegible] in Allen's prime period in the 1970s. Also with Judy Davis and Alison Pill. (112 min.) (KV)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Daughters of the Dust (112 min., 1991). Preceded by The Diary of an African Nun (15 min., 1977). L.A. Rebellion: Creating a New Black Cinema. (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

Fatal Attraction (119 min., 1987). Jack London Square Waterfront Films (Jack London [illegible], sundown)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

An American Werewolf in London (97 min., 1981). Paramount Movie Classics (Paramount Theater, Oakland, 8:00)

Capricious Young Man (78 min., 1936). In Japanese with English subtitles. Life Is Short: [illegible] Shimizu at 100 (PFA, 7:00)

The Masseurs and a Woman (66 min., 1938). In Japanese with English subtitles. [illegible] Shimizu at 100 (PFA, 8:45)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Sansho the Bailiff (119 min., 1954). In Japanese with English subtitles. Life Is Short: [illegible] Shimizu at 100 (PFA, 6:30)

The Grotesque (125 min., 1919). A Theater Near You (PFA, 8:25)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Earth 2100 (123 min., 2009). Preceded by potluck and [illegible] hour at 6:30 p.m.; followed by discussion. Pedal [illegible] and Life (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 8:30)

Night and Days: A Century of Short Animation Then (70 min. total running time, 2009-07), including five short films, with [illegible] Jarnagin and [illegible] in person. Alternative Visions (PFA, 7:00)

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A COUNTRY HOME FOR JESSI PHILLIPS

Like many local artists, the Oakland-based singer longs for a rural past and looks toward a lean future.

By Rachel Swan

[illegible]

Jessi Phillips draws on her childhood spent in rural Michigan for inspiration for her music.

Petite, blue-eyed, red-haired singer Jessi Phillips sat outside Arbor Cafe in Oakland last Wednesday, furtively sipping a glass of beer and clutching a hardbound copy of *Crazy Heart*, the Thomas Cobb cowboy novel that, she said, is not nearly as good as the movie. Phillips' dog, Sylvie, knelt listlessly below the table, watching as the late-afternoon sun cast a smoky orange glow over Telegraph Avenue. Phillips looked equally sluggish, perhaps from the reading material or a long day of work — she's currently preparing for the academic year to start at a Palo Alto high school where she teaches English and drama. Phillips is actually somewhat of a renaissance woman. She studied theater and journalism, earned an MFA in creative writing, and decided, in her adult life, to become a country singer. Her new album, cut under the moniker Eight Belles, betrays the singer's rambling sensibility, but not the restless work ethic that comes with it.

In fact, Eight Belles is firmly rooted in an olden tradition of country music. The songs are doleful and lonely, buoyed by Phillips' drawling soprano and Henry Nagle's pedal steel or acoustic guitar, often with no other adornments. Aesthetically, they're a reflection of Phillips' autobiography. She grew up on a small farm in Lawton, Michigan, a town with 1,900 people and no stoplights. It's managed to stay frozen in time, she said, owing partly to geography and partly to a meth epidemic that's stultified much of the population. Still, Phillips' dream is to go back there, live on the farm, run some kind of organic nonprofit, and play music in her spare time. At 31, she's spent a good chunk of her life in the community, but the idea of a rural homeland still pervades her art. It resonates at the core of Eight Belles' debut album, *Girls Underground*, which could easily be a paean to older, simpler times.

That makes Phillips an anomaly in modern music, and a viable presence in Oakland, where the artist community has formed its own folksy idyll to contrast San Francisco's tech boom. The creative class here largely consists of refugees who came in search of affordable real estate and a leaner, slower way of life. Like Phillips, they cling to a pastoral mentality. Oakland's new bohemians like to stage house concerts and pickle things in jars; they grow vegetable patches, wear flannel shirts, and renovate garages into blacksmithing studios. Their tastes are antithetical to the fast-paced electronic party music that proliferates in San Francisco — here "lo-fi" and "low tech" are the new normal, and country music is enjoying a quiet renaissance.

And Phillips fits right in. The daughter of a social worker and an erstwhile folk musician who later became a teacher, she grew up listening to folk music but not having the discipline to play it. "My dad got me a guitar when I was a kid, but I was too into riding my horse and shooting my bow and arrow," she recalled, explaining that her dad didn't cotton to the idea of playing music casually — he seldom gigs anymore, but still practices about four hours a night. Eventually, though, she taught herself how to strum chord changes and sing in a sweet, warbly tone, mostly by listening to old country chanteuses like Bobbie Gentry. After graduating with a liberal arts degree from Michigan State University, she moved to Brooklyn and joined a Sixties-influenced pop band called The Bowling Green. "There's no record of our existence," Phillips laughed, insisting it was a cranky-punk group nonetheless.

She moved to West Oakland in 2010, began performing at house concerts, and met the members of her current band — Nagle, bassist Christian Carpenter, and drummer Shaun Lowecki, a slew of string players, and a couple backup vocalists. Phillips quickly ensconced herself in a folk scene that had grown out of an industrial environment, where the shells of old factories became pop-up music venues and most artists operated out of garages or converted warehouses. Yet her music resonated nostalgia for a place far away, where people till farmland and drive rusted cars and listen to terrestrial radio.

The opener, "Buried Child," is a lament for another woman whose man has gone and whose mother stands sentry at the porch with a *cigarette and a gun*. The stories conveyed in these lyrics have the grim tint of old folk tales, with characters all bereft, impoverished, or empty-handed. Happiness is a *song playing on the radio*; change is *dyeing your hair*.

That's the world from which Phillips emerged, and the one to which she'll eventually return. She wrote and squirreled away a whole compendium of songs throughout her twenties, while teaching in the Bronx, finishing an MFA, mopping floors at a hotel in the Grand Canyon, serving pizza at Lanesplitter, and ultimately establishing herself in West Oakland. A few months ago she and Nagle began recording *Girls Underground* at 25th Street Recording, a studio birthed from an old auto shop in Oakland's Uptown arts corridor. They laid down the vocal and guitar parts first, then layered in the other instruments: violin by Carey Lamprecht, cello by Madeline Nagle, upright bass by Tim Sarter, and organ by Julie Bruns. John Courage and Inés Beltrameno sang backup choruses on four tracks. Phillips decided to start off with "Buried Child" to give the album a little more gravitas. She thought that non-country fans wouldn't give *Girls Underground* the benefit of the doubt if it began with a barn burner.

Thus the tone of the album is melancholy — the title draws from a lyric about girls going underground to a dimly lit bar to escape the sweltering afternoon heat — while the atmosphere is richly detailed. The characters of these songs are familiar, filched from old stories or Texas noir films, or from Phillips' childhood in rural Michigan. And the sentiments ring true, too. Phillips longs for the past, but she also offers hope of a leaner future in light of a sagging economy. *Oh the trigger of time it tracks you*, Phillips sings in a cover of a Richard Hawley song, "Tonight the Streets Are Ours." A nice piece of alliteration, it's also a poetic way to encapsulate one of the dominant themes of the album — that we move forward by looking toward the past.

Show Details

Eight Belles perform at The Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Sept. 13, 9 p.m., $7-$12. StarryPloughPub.com

Phillips hews to that idea in real life, too. Ascetic by nature, she eschews television and seldom goes to the movies, opting instead to read voraciously and play her guitar. In Oakland, she appears to be in good company. Despite — or more likely, because of — its dearth of nightlife infrastructure, the city has become an incubator for garage venues and low-key bars that lend themselves to folk music. Phillips has performed in places like The Stork Club, Bar 355, and The Starry Plough in Berkeley (where she'll appear again next week as part of Mission Creek Arts & Music Festival) and aligned herself with similar folk bands like E. Hamilton and Rin Tin Tiger. She says it's the kind of tight-knit community where you can walk into a neighborhood cafe and run into people you know. "Oakland really does have the feel of a small town," Phillips said, adding that in some ways it's not so unlike Lawton. Perhaps it will form the backdrop for her next spate of country songs. ■

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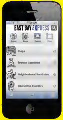

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CONVERTING THE NAYSAYERS

An enthusiastic crowd and creative interpretations of its songs made Yeasayer's show at The Fox Theater a success.

athenne Plato

Yeasayer's live show was wildly successful

It would be nearly impossible for someone who has never heard Yeasayer to try and guess the band's sound judging by the looks of its audience alone. While the notion that a band can "transcend" genre has become a cliché that applies, to some extent, to most new music, it truly befits the Brooklyn-based quartet. Its sound falls somewhere between rock, pop, and dance, incorporating discernible "ethnic" influences (speaking of clichéd phrases). A dozen different bands come to mind when listening to Yeasayer, from Eighties new wave and synth pop to modern indie rock, with moments of blues- and soul-influenced melodies and instrumentation. The mixed crowd at Saturday night's show at The Fox Theater reflected Yeasayer's influences, and was a refreshing "anti-scene" in two major ways: its diversity and the fact that almost every person was full-on dancing at points — not nodding their heads and swaying self-consciously, but actually dancing.

Yeasayer has been touring on and off since late June, promoting its third full-length record *Fragrant World*, which was released on August 21. The album name was taken from the title of a song that didn't make the final cut. According to bassist Ira Wolf Tuton, there were several hundred songs that were considered for the album, but that particular song title/phrase was one that everyone was still attracted to: It was poetic, encompassing, and full of potential for interpretation and imagery. While the eleven songs that ended up on the album seem to sit together well, as if they were written to do so, Tuton said that was largely the result of the final production.

"When you go into the studio and you produce the aesthetic in the same space, using the same tools, and at the same time ... that cohesive aesthetic is going to come afterwards," he said in an interview a few weeks before the Oakland show. He added that all members contribute equally to the songwriting process, with each person providing his own demoed tracks. "Then as we get toward the end of the process, we start seeing which ones fit. The things that don't make the album, a lot of times they're ideas on tonalities that we might have already achieved on another song."

But not everyone was impressed with *Fragrant World*. While *Rolling Stone* touts it as Yeasayer's "boldest" album, a writer at PopMatters laments its very lack of catchy hooks and *Spin* dumped it in its "Worst New Music" file. Like most pop music that falls toward the experimental or psychedelic side, the record might require a few listens before fans really "get" it. The band's live show, however, was both exciting and accessible, thanks to an ultra-enthusiastic crowd and arrangements that veered from the record in interesting ways. While many electronic bands tend to have prefabricated live shows that end up being disappointing, with too much reliance on samples and presets, Yeasayer creatively reinterpreted every track it played live.

"It feels good to continually move," said Tuton. "It's pretty fresh in terms of the way that we're working on the live show and arranging everything. We continually work on things on the road as well, because the arrangements have to change. There's a lot of challenges that still exist, which makes it exciting and dynamic — as opposed to just, 'All right, push play,' and we'll just recreate the album."

The band's fifteen-song set at the Fox was equal parts new and old material, opening with a dancier, more energetic version of "Blue Paper" from *Fragrant World*. Like most of the songs Yeasayer played off its new album, the live version came across as fresh, more dynamic, and more engaging than the recorded version. As did new single "Henrietta," one of the album's most successful tracks. Beginning with a few funk-influenced electro-pop verses and evolving into an unexpectedly haunting chorus with droning synths and a driving bass line, the song epitomizes Yeasayer's unpredictability and genre-crossing. The recorded version, which even the harshest critics have called one of the album's best moments, set the bar high, but the live version surpassed it.

For a band that's still solidly on the indie radar but not yet mainstream — despite recent appearances on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* and *Conan* — the crowd seemed to have familiarity with every song played, and so it's hard to say how much of the success of the show was due to fans' energy versus inventive live arrangements. But the extra work that Tuton and his bandmates put in to serving up these shows definitely seem to pay off. Throughout the night, songs appeared as sparkling, dressed-up versions of their more cerebral, blander recorded selves, which leaves you with a greater appreciation of the band's capabilities. ●

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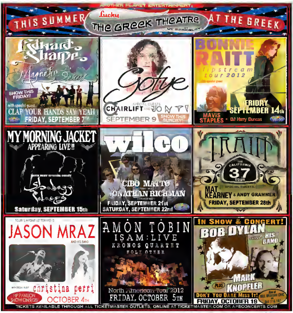

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CD REVIEWS

OUT OF THE PETRI DISH

A jazz drummer goes hip-hop, a bandleader goes solo...and Animal Collective goes for aural assault.

Karriem Riggins

Alone Together

"Protean" and "polyglot" are the new norms in contemporary jazz — to such an extent, in fact, that any artist who still categorizes music along the old axis of genre might come off as a fuddy-duddy. But even in a scene dominated by experimentalists, drummer Karriem Riggins stands out as particularly hip. Part of a Detroit musical dynasty — his father is jazz pianist Emmanuel Riggins, his sister Tanisha is a singer; his early mentors include pianist Mulgrew Miller and singer Betty Carter — Riggins learned to navigate between old world bebop and its contemporary offshoots at an early age. He ultimately became a protégé of the late famed producer J Dilla, cobbled beats for Detroit soul-hop group Slum Village, and forged relationships with such rappers as Common (who appears on Riggins' new album), Black Thought of The Roots, Talib Kweli, and Madlib. To top it all off, Riggins is currently signed to the backpacker hip-hop label Stones Throw Records.

Thus, it shouldn't come as any surprise that *Alone Together*, which draws its title from a Broadway standard by Arthur Schwartz, is emphatically a hip-hop album. Riggins may be a superlative live drummer, but he uses traps sparingly on these 34 tracks, opting instead for drum samples from an MPC 3000. The songs bleed together the way they would if a DJ were sequencing and cross-fading tracks, and some of them never quite lock into a groove. (That's very much in line with the Stones Throw aesthetic.) Riggins also lards the music with vocal drops, clips of old radio interviews, and loops isolated from other people's recordings to give it that telltale pastiche style of hip-hop. Fans expecting a jazz record will be sorely disappointed; as hip-hop, though, it's phenomenal. (Stones Throw Records)

— *Rachel Swan*

Bob Mould

Silver Age

Circa 1998, former Husker Du/Sugar frontperson Bob Mould announced he was through with "electric band" performing. *Silver Age*, Mould's first solo album since 1989's *Life and Times*, reveals the fact that he remains plugged in (literally and figuratively) to loud, emotion-laden rock 'n' roll. With bassist Jason Narducy and drummer Jon Wurster, Mould re-embraces the power trio format in which he's excelled in times past. "Star Machine" is an angry, seething indictment of a fellow musician's selling out to the bitch-goddess known as Success. Mould's voice is still rich with restlessness and righteous bile; his guitar sound still thick and massive as a steel girder. Note, too, the vaguely Byrds-like guitar-shimmering in the roaring, psychedelically tinged "Round the City Square." The title tune slams in a manner similar to the recent works of the Buzzcocks — comely pop hooks, grinding guitars, a big beat, and tough-yet-vulnerable singing. "Steam of Hercules" has a dense, swirling production and a forlorn melody that evokes The Beatles circa *The White Album* (think "Dear Prudence").

The upside: At age 51, Mould is still focused and inspired as ever, and not coasting on bygone glories. (You listening, John Lydon?) The downside: As good as this *Silver Age* is, the album still has a déjà vu feel about it. Some of these songs could be from Mould's *Sugar* days — the power-chord-age throughout is awfully familiar. On its own terms, however, *Age* proves aging gracefully and rocking out aren't mutually exclusive. (Merge)

— *Mark Keresman*

Animal Collective

Centipede Hz

There was a petri-dish period, around ten years ago, when Animal Collective thrived on its fervid fan base alone. To be a connoisseur of the band was to relegate yourself to bedrooms and small cliques, emerging to bask in the band's weirdness only a couple times a year. Now the band is much more high profile, and in some ways bereft of its former qualities. But in other ways, it's still bedeviling.

The band's new, ninth album is both familiar and a departure, even though it misses the mark on a few levels. It has the oscillating ambience of 2005's *Feels* without any of the playfulness. It bears the heavy, backsaw synths of the illustrious *Merriweather Post Pavilion* without any of the sweet summer sentiment. And it's devoid of other elements that made the group great: beguiling harmonic structure, whimsical vocals, joyousness.

Still, *Centipede Hz* absolutely tramples the listener. Even the few less dense tunes, such as "Father Time" and "Rosie Oh," include pounding, intricate percussion. Perhaps that level of aggression and detail is characteristic of Animal Collective, but it's still startling.

For the disgruntled diehards, angry about the direction of the group post *Merriweather*, this could be a good return. The knock-down, drag-out, one-two punch introductions of "Moonjock" and "Today's Supernatural" are major highlights, and each song is an assault of sound, all the way to the last track. Musically, fit as ever, each sample is planned down to the last lurching squeal. *Centipede Hz* does not sound like the Animal Collective from ten or even five years ago, but it's still a resplendent riot of an album. (Domino)

— *Will Butler*

LOCAL LICKS

BY RACHEL SWAN

Pine & Battery

Daylights EP

This rock band touts itself as "melodramatic," which seems a little misguided given the musicians' penchant for hooky riffs and ambling rhythms. That said, Pine & Battery certainly doesn't suffer for lack of man angst. *My water won't turn into wine/I'm living on borrowed time*, singer Jeff Campbell moans on the opening track of this EP. That couplet has no meaning by itself, but it befits the band's personality. (Fog City)

Sureshot Symphony Solution

Elegant Aggression

A copious record collection and a taste for the entire lineage of black music will no longer guarantee a career in hip-hop, but it might help give a producer extra mileage. It certainly helped Shane Hunt, aka DJ Sureshot. His "Sureshot Symphony Solution" weaves horn-plumped funk rarities with the occasional guest rapper — e.g., Ohmega Watts, who appears on "Half Man, Half Bionic." (Nature Sounds)

Rin Tin Tiger

Toxic Pocketbook

The members of Rin Tin Tiger are traditionalists, not only in their love of drawly vocals and lean, acoustic instrumentation, but also in their recording process. *Toxic Pocketbook* is modest and lovely, with dryly orchestrated tracks and plainspoken lyrics. Singer and harmonica player Kevin Sullivan is charming, self-flagellating, and often supplicant. (self-released)

At The Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Sept. 13, 9 p.m., $7-$12.

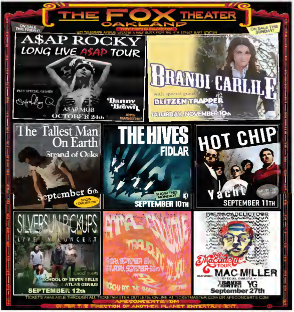
Erik Jekabson

Anti-Mass

Even in a jazz scene as strong as this one, you seldom see a band as good as Erik Jekabson's new nonet: equal parts horn, rhythm, and string sections, it's as much a chamber group as it is a combo. And the songs, all original compositions inspired by artwork at the de Young Museum, are quietly, cunningly beautiful, layered with warm harmonies and insightful solos. (Jekab's Music)

At Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Sept. 11, 8 p.m., $20.50-$22.50.

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.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FRI 9/7 8:30PM HELLA FUN TRIBUTE NIGHT THE JEAN GENIES SPACE BOSS

SAT 9/8 8:30PM SCOTT AMENDOLA QUARTET PHILLIP GREENLIEF'S PG13 THE AVA MENDOZA TRIO

THU 9/13 8:00PM GRIZZLE AND THE PLENTY RIN TIN TIGER, EIGHT BELLES CAVE CLOVE

FRI 9/14 8:30PM WICKLOW ATWATER AND THE FALLEN FLAME OWL PAWS

SAT 9/15 THE LOVE DIMENSION ATOMIC BRIDE (SEATTLE) MYSTERY SCHOOL

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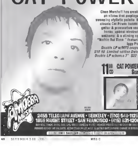

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CONCERTS&CLUBS

THURSDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Zydeco Party of 7 with Cabalen & Eli, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., 24.50-$28.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

East Bay Jazz Open Yoshi's Annexed, 8 p.m., $12

Rock & Pop

DJ [illegible] Honey, [illegible], 5 p.m. free

The Jerry Miller & Jerry Haggerty Band Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $12-$15

Little [illegible] with Guitones, [illegible], Vadiuse Bowl Club, 8:30 p.m., $5

The Music: Man on Earth with Dreams of Glass, Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $30

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $20, $24

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Todd [illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Plays [illegible] Part of the San Francisco Symphony's "Great Performers" series, Davies Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $40-160

San Francisco Symphony Ashkenazi, Wagner Bychkov, Overture to Tannhauser (Dresden version) and Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 26; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64, with Pinchas Zukerman on violin; and conductor Semyon Bychkov, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$146

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Alan with Sth Wavy Tomb and Jungle Ax, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $7

[illegible] with Soft Metals, Dominique, and Vagabond Rib, Amnesia, Sep. 6 p.m., $12, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Jack DeJohnette Trio with Ravi Coltrane and Stanley Clarke, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $40-$89

Rock & Pop

Big [illegible] with Youngblood Brass and The [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10, $12

[illegible] with the Bye Bye [illegible] and John Harrison's [illegible], 9 p.m., $8

[illegible] with Dennis in [illegible], Kings of Fake, [illegible], The Light [illegible], For a [illegible] Kind, The Human Condition, and [illegible], DNA Lounge, 8 p.m., $10, $13

Kelly Hack [illegible], Sep. 6, free

Loose Cuts with [illegible], Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $5, $7

Bitsy Higgins with Butterfly [illegible] and Katie Kemp, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $25

[illegible] with Crown [illegible] and more TBA, The Knockout, 10 p.m., $7

The Soft [illegible] with The [illegible], Public Works, 7-11 p.m., free

Songwriters in the [illegible] with Heather Combs, Ellen Randall, Marc Gibbons, and [illegible], [illegible] 8 p.m., $8

This Man is a Pipebomb with Wild Assumptions and Rusty Crossroads, Thee Parkside

8 p.m., $8

Zachary [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] Hayes, Amnesia, 9 p.m., $7, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Big Man's Funky Bass with [illegible] and [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m., $15

Stompy Jones playing "Conjure Avenue" [illegible], Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Oro 4 Los Ojos Mojito, 8:30 p.m., free

FRIDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Frog & Fiddle, 8:30-11 p.m., free

[illegible] Jones Boppers [illegible], 5 p.m., $5

Classical & Opera

Bravo to Time: John Kennedy, Composer Colloquium Series lecture on classical music with composer and conductor John Kennedy, in [illegible] Hall, [illegible] Rooms 125, UC Berkeley campus, 3-4:30 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Sifte Oke and [illegible] CD release show, Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $12, $15

Jones [illegible] Band with Les McCann, Yoshi's Oakland, Sep. 7-8, 8 & 10 p.m., $27, $30

Kat [illegible] Trio featuring Max MacVeety on Drums and [illegible] on bass, Jupiter, 5-7 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Unfeater with Rotting Out, Overpower, Blood Sealers, Broken Ties, and Bottom Coast, 924 Gilman, 6:30 p.m., $12

Heather [illegible] and The Amerigos Zeros with Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Greek Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $25

Gypsy [illegible] with Midnight Chance, At Our Heels, and Vinyl, Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m., $5

The Jean Genies (David Bowie Tribute) with Space Boss, Starry Plough, 8:30 p.m., $7-$12

Young Prisms with [illegible] and more, The Uptown, 8 p.m., free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Big Bucks with [illegible] and DJ [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m., $15-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Sarah Bourbon with DJ Lucas K, Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $10, $12

Jones Music Journey Benefit for [illegible] Project with Dave [illegible], Jones [illegible], Perla [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50, $24.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

77 El Deora with Kitchen Fire, Amnesia, 9:30 p.m., $1

Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Plays [illegible] Part of the San Francisco Symphony's "Great Performers" Series, Davies Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $40-160

[illegible] Performance of the [illegible] opera with [illegible], [illegible] Lobsters. [illegible] for showtimes, War Memorial Opera House, Sep. 7-30, $23-$340

San Francisco Symphony Ashkenazi, Wagner Bychkov, Overture to Tannhauser (Dresden version) and Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 26; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64, with Pinchas Zukerman on violin, and conductor Semyon Bychkov, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$146

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Portishead The Fillmore, 9 p.m., $30.50

Capital [illegible] with Matt Vanson and [illegible], Mezzanine, 9 p.m., $10

Sunday @ The [illegible] with Anthony Mansfield, Rich Kanaty, Dax, Suite-An, and more TBA, Public Works, 10:30 p.m., $12, $15

[illegible] Presents: The Automatic Message Boatfox, 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] with Daving Gubbel, [illegible], and DJ Chicken, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Kurt [illegible] Trio with The 6-Stars, The [illegible], and DJ [illegible] "Gamma Boy", Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $12, $15

The Jack DeJohnette Trio with Ravi Coltrane and Stanley Clarke, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $40-$89

Rock & Pop

The El Boxes with Pro-Legendary and the Preservers and Aggrolords, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $7

[illegible] Showcase with Paradise Lost and Stolen [illegible], American [illegible] Hall, Sep. 7, $24

Spot-On [illegible] Showcase featuring Grumpy Deep, [illegible], Jones Soda, and Sounds [illegible], [illegible] Gallery, 7:30 p.m., $8

[illegible] with [illegible] and The Frankelwin Way, Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 p.m., $10, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] with The Beggars Who Give and DJ [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 9 p.m., $12

[illegible] with Mase Aldridge, A-5, Baby L. and DJ Mere Fadez, Slim's, 9 p.m., $24

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Los [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] Leydis, The Independent, 9 p.m., $15

[illegible] Bychkov, Osea with Jones Applewood and Kory Wing, Polly Utah, 8 p.m., $10

SATURDAY 8

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] with music by Blue Bone Express and dancing by Hot Pink Feathers, Cafe Van Kleef, 9:30 p.m., $10

[illegible] with [illegible] and Emily Worthy, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $8, $10

Megan McLaughlin High Street Biscuits Cafe, 7:15 p.m., $10

Gospel & Vocal

Left Coast Prestige Festival featuring Tony Sweet, Eugene Cole, Marvel Webb, Emmit Powell and the Gospel [illegible], Consonance, B.O.P.E., [illegible] Hall, R.A.I.G.R., and many more, [illegible], 11 a.m.-6 p.m., $35, $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jones [illegible] Band with Les McCann, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $20, $30

Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 5:30 p.m., free

Jose [illegible] with Wayne Wallace and [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50, $24.50

Kids

Los Angelitos de La Peña Saturday

Mission Creek Oakland Music and Arts Festival
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MWAHAHA
CLIPD BEAKS
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morning children's show with live music. La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m. $8, $5 for kids

Rock & Pop

Kelly's Army with Bobby Joe Ebola & the Children MacNuggits and [illegible] 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 7:15 p.m. $8

Los Rakas, Afrolicious with Swamy Angel and Mad Mac, plus Astralia, artists, and DJs. Oakland Wine, Oaktoberfest, 1-4 p.m. $10

Mission Stoner Festival with Juggernaut, Gay Good Fly To Die and Heart Be a Hero. Ellis Mile High Club, 1 p.m. TBA

Thee Oh Sees with Sic Alps, The Mallards and Breakers. The Uptown, 8 p.m., $12, $14

Troubador with Dynasty Lounge, Hey Man Hey Loudspeakers, and Fulminate. Stork Club, 8:30 p.m. $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The 21Half with Candelaria, Defective and Unphonic. Classic Cars West, 3-8 p.m., free

DJ Dali Bruney's Ladder, 5 p.m., and

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Sol & the Afrobeat Band with Naia Kete. Ashkenaz, 5:30 p.m., $10, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Earnest East Ragnarok Saloon, 9-11 p.m., free

The Brush & Oakys with Terry Bowland, Ed Bell Covers. The Independent, 8 p.m., $15

Hootenanny Night Café International, 7 p.m., free

Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit with Kasey Anderson & The Honkies. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $17

Ben Bane @ Mellow Italian folk music with Stuart Mignano. Caffe Trieste, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., free

Magnus Afrobeat with A City on a Lake. Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $12, $15

The Mills Side with Good Moon, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $10, $15

Classical & Opera

Andras Schiff Plays Bach Part of the San Francisco Symphony's "Great Performers" series. Davies Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $40-$80

Rigoletto Performances of the Giuseppe Verdi opera, with soloists. Directed by Harry Silverstein. See website for showtimes. War Memorial Opera House. Sep. 30. $27-$341

San Francisco Symphony Performs Wagner featuring Overture to Tannhäuser (Dresden version), and Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 26; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64, with Pinchas Zukerman on violin; and Stanislav Skrowaczewski. Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m. $15-$140

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Jack DeJohnette Trio with Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $40-$100

Rock & Pop

The Adicts with Brothers of Brazil. Slim's, 9 p.m. $23, $25

Balanced Lights with Arbetal Super Spooks and Echoes. Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8

Boobies Nine-Year Anniversary with [illegible], Lady Killers and Tiger Honey Pot. Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $5

Crystal Antlers with Lenz, Pamplona, and Pang. Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $10

Hell Bye featuring the Magic Magik Rhythms, with Chasers and Easy Tiger. Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $10, $12

Giggle Party with In Hibernation Magic Girls vs Suede, and Church. Thee Parkside, 8 p.m. $6

Gunpowder with Raging Fred Biscuits and Redwood Blues. Thee Parkside, 3-7 p.m. free

Matt Lax & Raging Biscuits The Riptide, 9:30 p.m.-midnight, free

Dave & Hell Adventure Hell with Billy, Chet, and Victoria & Sonas, El Rio, 10 p.m. $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Dub Stix with the Sublimic, Skin Sleek. Rasselas, 9:30 p.m. $10

Slvia Djembe Mama Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $22

SUNDAY 9

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged with Buck Nickles. Blues, Uptown, 5 p.m., free

Sunday Morning Blues with Rev Pablo, Caffe Mediterraneum, 11 a.m., and

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Angle Spinelli CD release party, featuring Fred Randolph on bass and Billy Stone on drums. Musically Minded Academy, 3 p.m., $8-$15

Eli Wallace jazz-inspired piano improvisations. Hippie Gypsy Café, 12:30 p.m., free

Young Gov featuring jazz saxophonist Biscuits. Sheldon Jazzschool, 4:30 p.m., $12, $15

Javon Jackson Band with Les McCann, Yoshi's Oakland, 6 & 8 p.m. $20, $30

Hill and R&B Night Denny's Ladder, 6-10 p.m. free

Jim Hearthstone Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz. Coffee Mill, 3-6 p.m., free

Main Meows Actual Cafe, 5 p.m., free

The Bobby Moore Trio Rick's Lounge, 6:30-10 p.m. free

Americana Blues Jazzschool, 8 p.m., $12, $15

Kids

Silly Sundays Kids Shows with Asheba. Ashkenaz, 3-4:30 p.m., $4, $6

Rock & Pop

and Bobs Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $28.50, $30.50

Dirty Doris Family Boris with Sweet Honey. The Uptown, 1:30 p.m. $7

Gotye Greek Theatre, 7 p.m., $42.50

The Nebo-Celebration [illegible] 7:30 p.m. free

Blues Doris Biscuits with Sopwood Legs, JBS, Whereaszenic, Bloody Bear Rallys, Kat Damage and devoted fans by Mykee Romer, Jake The Baker and Pound Of Punks. 924 Gilman, 4 p.m. $12

Ralikus with Mawnee, Moses to Trip, Elegy, and Yo Mama Pluto Paraphic. Eli's Mile High Club, 5-8 p.m., $6

Strange Love Lake & Pilsnola Actual Cafe, 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Elyeba Sila & Friends with Elyeba Sila, Turkish and Arabic ney (reed flute), Issa Nessar, Turkish tambour, Bouchaib Abdelhadi, Moroccan vocals and oud; and Faisal Zedan, Arabic percussion. Subterranean Arthouse, 7 p.m. $10-$15

Unplugged Vocal Concert with Bhavik Kanhaliker with Vikas Kanhaliker, voice, Makarand Kharwandikar, harmonium, and Dhananjay Kharwandikar, tabla. Subterranean Arthouse, 7 p.m. $10-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Bobby Young Project Blind, Blues, 9:30 p.m. free

Songwriter Sundays rotating shows perform at the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 p.m.-midnight, $5

T Sisters with more TBA. Amnesia, 8 p.m., $7-$10

Toby Johnstone Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

Claudio Bonnet on piano for Sunday champagne brunch. Top of the Mark, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., $45-75 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

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SAN FRANCISCO

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Sun, Sep 9 THE MUSICAL ART QUINTET & QUARTET SAN FRANCISCO

Mon, Sep 10 ANTHONY DAVID plus Elliot Yamin

Tue, Sep 11 AIRTO MOREIRA & JOSE NETO BAND feat. EYEDENTITY

Wed, Sep 12 THE RAGHU DIXIT PROJECT

Thu, Sep 13 THE LARRY CARLTON QUARTET

Fri-Sat, Sep 14-15 MASON JENNINGS (Solo)

Sat, Sep 15 BEN TAYLOR

Sat, Sep 15, 10pm in The Lounge SLICK RICK

Sun, Sep 16 JIM MARTINEZ TRIO

oakland

Wed, Sep 5 LAURENCE JUBER

Thu, Sep 6 EAST BAY BRASS BAND

Fri-Sun, Sep 7-9 JAVON JACKSON BAND with LES McCANN

Mon, Sep 10 Sound Principles feat. DAVE MAC NAB, JOHN MADER & SASCHA JACOBSEN

Tue, Sep 11 DAVID LaFLAMME & PHIL LAWRENCE ENSEMBLE

Wed, Sep 12 INSPECTOR GADJE

Thu, Sep 13 BRIAN BLADE & MAMA ROSA

Fri-Sun, Sep 14-16 JOHN SCOFIELD TRIO

Mon, Sep 17 BOMBINO

Wed, Sep 19 GREGORY PORTER

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WED SEPT 5 F*CKED UP CEREMONY

FRI SEPT 7 ROACH GIGZ MAIN ATTRAKIONZ A-1 • BABY E • DJ NIMA FADAVI

SAT SEPT 8 THE ADICTS BROTHERS OF BRAZIL

WED SEPT 12 ANGUS STONE

FRI SEPT 14 AC/DSHE (THE ALL-GIRL TRIBUTE TO BON SCOTT ERA AC/DC) HELLFIRE SPADE VACATION

SAT SEPT 15 THE GOOD HURT MATT MASIN & THE MESSENGERS THRIVE

THURS SEPT 20 MAXIMO PARK THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ZAMBRI

FRI SEPT 21 EASY STAR ALL-STARS PASSAFIRE

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FRI SEPT 7 KATATONIA DEVIN TOWNSEND PARADISE LOST STOLEN BABIES

SAT SEPT 8 JASON ISBELL & THE 400 UNIT KASEY ANDERSON & THE HONKIES

SUN SEPT 9 NEW OOOH NIGHT TRAIN'S SOUL CLAP & DANCE OFF WITH PERFORMANCES BY SHANNON & THE CLAMS ONO MIKAL CRONIN DJS JONATHAN TOUBIN & PRIMO PLUS LOCAL CELEBRITY JUDGES! $1000 CASH PRIZE!

TUES SEPT 11 BLAQK AUDIO HI DEAF

FRI SEPT 14 JAMES McMURTRY THE GOUROS

SAT SEPT 15 LOS STRAITJACKETS FEATURING DADDY-O GRANDE BIG SANDY & HIS FLY-RITE BOYS

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C&C

The Musical Art [illegible] with Quartet San Francisco. Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 p.m., $20.
Rigoletto Performance of the [illegible] Verdi opera, with [illegible] direction by [illegible]. See website for showtimes. War Memorial Opera House. Sep. 30. $27-$340.

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jukebox with The Break Up, The [illegible], and [illegible]. DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $15, $22.
Music [illegible] [illegible] Art [illegible], 7 & 9 p.m., $12-$20.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Lloyd Gregory Biscuits & Blues, 7 & 9 p.m., $15.
[illegible] Quintet with The [illegible]. [illegible] Union Hall, 7:30-10 p.m., $6, $10.
[illegible] & [illegible] featuring [illegible], [illegible], [illegible]. [illegible] Saloon, 4:30-8:30 p.m., $5.

Rock & Pop

Punk the Town Down with Stage 13, Chicken Rangers, and Cartoon Shadows. Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $6.
Spider Vibes with Tokyo Raid, Broken Bride, and the [illegible]. Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 7 p.m., $5, $8.
Tigers with Mercy Day and [illegible]. Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m., $8.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

New York Night Train's Soul Clap and Dance Off with Shannon and the Clams, Mikal Cronin, and DJs Jonathan Toubin and [illegible]. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $12.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Black Uhuru The Independent, 9 p.m., $25.

MONDAY 10

EAST BAY

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Hot Chip with YACHT. Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $35.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] 57th Street Gallery, 7 p.m., $5, $10.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible]. Eli's Mile High Club, 8 p.m., $TBA.
[illegible] & [illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m., free.
The Whigs with POLAR. Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $[illegible].

SAN FRANCISCO

Classical & Opera

Rigoletto Performance of the famous Verdi opera, with [illegible] direction by [illegible]. See website for showtimes. War Memorial Opera House. Sep. 30. $27-$340.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] / [illegible] The Warfield, 8 p.m., $[illegible].
[illegible] with [illegible] and At Our Heels. Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $7.
[illegible] with [illegible]. The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $30, $34.
Trust with [illegible], Nightmare Fortress, and [illegible], and Aaron [illegible]. Mezzanine, 8 p.m., $12.50.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Anthony Hamilton Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $75.
JC [illegible] and the Uptown Sound with Karina Denike. Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m., $10, $12.
Miguel The Independent, 8 p.m., $25.

TUESDAY 11

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

9/11 [illegible] featuring [illegible] and [illegible]. Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7-8 p.m., $5.
[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $10.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Express with Hot Pink Feathers. Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m., free.
[illegible] / Phil Lawrence [illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $18.
Folk Jukebox [illegible] with [illegible]. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50.

Rock & Pop

The Vibrators with Mystic Knights of the Cobra, PRPL, and [illegible]. The Uptown, 9 p.m., $10.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Innerspace Jupiter, 8 p.m., free.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Billy T. Band Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $15.
Fat Opie featuring [illegible]. [illegible] Cafe, 7 p.m., free.

Classical & Opera

Rigoletto Performance of the famous Verdi opera, with [illegible] direction by [illegible]. See website for showtimes. War Memorial Opera House. Sep. 30. $27-$340.

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] with [illegible]. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $15.

Gospel & [illegible]

Fiona Apple with Blake Mills. The Warfield, 8 p.m., $58.50-$72.50.

Rock & Pop

The Cowboy [illegible] with [illegible] and Courtney and the Crushers. Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $8.
[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible]. DNA Lounge, 7 p.m., $20-$25.
[illegible] with Wildlife and more TBA. Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8.
The People's Temple Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m., $7.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., free.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & [illegible] featuring [illegible]. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $14-$20.

WEDNESDAY 12

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Berkeley Old Time Music Convention

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WED 9/5 BRYAN BOWMAN ORGAN TRIO
[illegible]

THU 9/6 SELECTOR: TOPH ONE
[illegible]

FRI 9/7 KAT 010
[illegible]
TRIO SUBTONIC
[illegible]

SAT 9/8 EDO CASTRO QUINTET
[illegible]

SUN 9/9 AMERICANA UNPLUGGED MT. DIABLO STRING BAND
[illegible]

TUE 9/11 TUESDAY JAZZIDENCY MICHAEL COLEMAN TRIO
[illegible]

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REGGAE
LUTAN FYAH
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WITH IKRONIK

THU 9/6 9:00 pm $15 $12 advance
ROCK
JERRY MILLER & TERRY HAGGERTY BAND
with members of Moby Grape, Sons of Champlin, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Doobie Brothers, Jefferson Starship

FRI 9/7 9:30 pm $12 $10 advance
BRAZILIAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY
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DJ LUCIO K
8:30 pm Forró dance lesson

SAT 9/8 8:30 pm $12 $10 students

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+ NAIA KETE

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TUE 9/11 8:30 pm $11
CAJUN
CREOLE BELLES
8 pm Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson

THU 9/13 9:00 pm $12
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PICKS

Hot Chip

Big Freedia

Colloquially known as the queen of New Orleans bounce, Big Freedia took a style of hip-hop that had hitherto been underground and made it palatable to mainstream audiences. Bounce relies the crisp snare and high-hat of hip-hop with shouted-out vocals that take the form of a chant, rather than a rhymed narrative. Primitive but infectious, it's perfect party music, and the name is entirely apropos. Since launching her career in 1999, Freedia has become a visible presence on the festival circuit, with her fashionable faux hawk and disarmingly deep tenor voice. Her shows often feature a full funk band and backup dancers in leotards. She'll perform this week with the similarly themed electro group Hottub and DJ Black at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Friday, Sept. 7. 9 p.m. $15, $20. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

The Fresh & Onlys

Musicians have been pondering the subject of love since what seems like the dawn of time. And yet, there still seems to be more to [illegible] it. The musicians of San Francisco's The Fresh & Onlys speak volumes, and the band's nostalgia-based sound is the perfect medium to deliver singer Tim Cohen's prosaic and poignant lyrics about heartbreak, disillusionment, and yearning. On the band's latest, *Long Slow Dance*, Cohen starts things off with a sensitive guy admission: *Something so heavy on my mind/I think I want to cry and let it out/So I cry and I cry, I cry and I cry.* But there's also brutal pain, like on the title track (*True love will drag you out across the yard and set fire to your home*), and bitterness, on "Dream Girls" (*Dream girls don't know what they do/they go round doin' anything they want/Dream girls and the dreams they ruin/sing a little tune and they break your heart*). Musically, the band seamlessly ping-pongs between decades from the Fifties to the Nineties, referencing everything from psych-garage to post-punk to Americana twang. Familiar yet unexpected, *Long Slow Dance* is the sound of a band that's clearly done its homework. Album release with Terry Malts and DJ Britt Govea on Saturday, Sept. 8, at The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco). 9 p.m. $15. TheIndependentSF.com — *Kathleen Richards*

Big Freedia

Hot Chip

First, the elephant in the room. Going to a show on (Tuesday) September 11 is awkward. Insensitive, even. Glib. Explained out loud, it's the kind of thing that's always preceded by a sheepish look and peppered with lots of "ums." Perhaps that's why Hot Chip — hot off a critically acclaimed album and a successful European tour — has, mind-bogglingly, not yet managed to sell out the Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph, Oakland) as of press time. But seriously: If you're going to get mildly wasted and dance your ass off on the anniversary of a horrific national tragedy, it should probably be for these guys. Hot Chip has always been postmodern, polyglot dance-pop at its very best, but that aforementioned album, *In Our Heads*, is the band itself at its very best: deeply human and yet wholly digital, made in equal parts of lose-yourself-on-the-dance-floor escapism and life-affirming emotional resonance, with production that's as airtight and intentional as the execution is giddy and vital — triumphal, even. Fuck terrorism. 8 p.m. $35. TheFoxOakland.com — *Ellen Cushing*

Featuring workshops, square dances, concerts, panel discussions, and much more. Various Locations, Sep. 12-30. Prices vary.

[illegible] Concert Birthday Tribute Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50, $22.50

California Honeydrops and Friends featuring Freddie Hughes and more. The New Parish, 9 p.m. [illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Concert Series with [illegible] Toby, cello; Miles Graber, piano; and Emily Frey, voice; Tony Lin, piano. Call 510-845-4864 for start time. Hertz Hall, Sep. 12. Donations appreciated

Rock & Pop

Bath Party with [illegible] Soda and [illegible]. [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., [illegible]

[illegible] with [illegible], Lessons, and Color Jumper. Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

KALX 90.7 FM Presents: [illegible] weekly music showcase this week featuring [illegible]. The Uptown, 8:30 p.m. free

Silversun Pickups with School of Seven Bells and Atlas Genius. Fox Theater, 7:30 p.m. $31.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] City, 8 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] with [illegible]. [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $5

[illegible] with The Two Man Gentlemen Band. Café du Nord, 9:30 p.m. $12.50, $14

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $20

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Performances of the [illegible] opera with musical direction by [illegible]. See website for showtimes. War Memorial Opera House, Sep. 30. [illegible]

[illegible] Symphony Performs Schubert and Shostakovich [illegible] and Symphony No. 11, respectively. Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m. [illegible]

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Kult with Left Spine Down, [illegible], and DJs [illegible]. DNA Lounge, 8 p.m. $16, $20

Rock & Pop

AgesandAges Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $8-$10

Angus Stone Slim's, 8 p.m. $18

[illegible] Wolfe with [illegible]. 8 p.m. $12

[illegible] with [illegible], of the Hill, 8 p.m. $10, $12

[illegible] with [illegible] and Female Trouble. [illegible], 8 p.m. $6

[illegible] with [illegible]. The Independent, 8 p.m. $15

[illegible] with [illegible], 8 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] with [illegible], 9 p.m. $8

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

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SAT 9/8 TEN MILE TIDE — [illegible]
WED 9/9 SPIDER HEART — TOKYO RAT, ATOMIC [illegible], THE SPIRAL ELECTRIC
WED 9/12 AGESANDAGES
THU 9/13 DANGERMUFFIN — WHEELER BROTHERS
FRI 9/14 ZEROS — WIMPS, MIDNIGHT SNACKS, DJ MISSY (BOOTY IN HAPPY HOUR)

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JAZZ MAFIA
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ZEE AVI
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LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES
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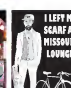

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world music from africa, the americas & beyond

THURS 9PM FREE
DJ PAM THE FUNKSTRESS
hip-hop soul neosoul r&b

FRI 10PM $10 $5 b4 11
DJS SPAIR & MERE
hip-hop dancehall choice cuts

SAT 10PM $7 $5 b4 11
DJS HENROC & OUMA
hip-hop reggae r&b latin

SUN 9PM polygenric FREE
RESIDENT DJS AEBLDEE DONGUAPO & MAX MAAL
multi-genric exploration of musical movement

MON 9PM 3 day weekend FREE
RESIDENT DJ PROZACK
local fever [illegible]

TUES 9PM soul fyah FREE
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reggae dancehall & african rhythms

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DJ & DANCE

EAST BAY

THURSDAY 6

Body Language w/ DJs B Aone and Gusu-G spinning '80s and '90s funk, pop, R&B and hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Cool Fever w/ Boozoo Bear Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free.

Gonna Shoo w/ DJs Kool Karlo and Chris Fox, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free.

[illegible] Thursdays [illegible], 11 p.m., free.

DJ B. Smoove w/ Mic & Buds, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and more. [illegible], 8 p.m.-midnight, free.

DJ Dick spinning lounge. Last Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

High Life w/ DJ Weekend Africa. The Layover, 10 p.m., free.

Riff Def [illegible] pop, mash-ups, new wave. [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

Salty Dogs w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible]. The Layover, 9:30 p.m., free.

Tasty [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15.

Temple w/ DJ Matthew [illegible] spinning global house power trio, White Horse Inn, 10 p.m.-midnight, free.

Temple of [illegible] w/ DJ Fluid Cat spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Sonoro Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

Ultra Wave DJs [illegible] Sabe [illegible], and [illegible] spinning dance music across genres. Sonar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Uptai Thursdays w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible] spinning roots reggae and dancehall. Continental Club, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5.

We Got the Beat featuring DJ [illegible] spinning '70s & '80s hits, Forbidden Island, 8 p.m., free.

[illegible] featuring DJs [illegible] and Cool, [illegible] and [illegible], 9 p.m., free.

FRIDAY 7

This [illegible] Party w/ DJ [illegible], Dragon Rouge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

Devil 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15.

Deejays, Ladies & [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] Soul, and Mabl spinning [illegible] [illegible]. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Deft spinning old 45, dance, and hip-hop. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, [illegible] rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] Bar Vinyl [illegible]. The Layover, 10 p.m., free.

Friday [illegible] w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $5.

Friday [illegible] w/ DJ Slapo K. [illegible] p.m., $5.

Magic [illegible] w/ DJ Golden Gram spinning punk, rock, indie, & [illegible] rock. The [illegible] Lounge, 9:10 p.m., free.

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Enfuse spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, banda, Spanish pop, & more. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $6-$15.

Mighty [illegible] DJs [illegible] T, [illegible] Bear and Smoke-[illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after.

Old [illegible] hip-hop and Bear [illegible] p.m., free.

Polygenric! DJs [illegible] dorGuapo, and MaxMaal host a multi-genre exploration of musical movement. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Retro [illegible] Groove beats hosts. [illegible] pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Saucy Fridays DJ Leah & [illegible] spin R&B & soul. Nelhoff's Cornell, 9 p.m., $5.

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spinning roots, reggae, dancehall, & soul. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., $5.

Mixed [illegible] Fridays featuring DJ [illegible] spinning ja [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more. Congo Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 8

All [illegible] & [illegible] DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop. Flowers, 10 p.m., free.

Angel Magic DJs Fuze, Jon [illegible], Young [illegible] & guests spin hip-hop, reggae & dancehall. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $15.

The Block [illegible] hosted by Good Kennedy [illegible] Music, 2 p.m., free.

Cool Impulse w/ DJs [illegible] playing [illegible] music and videos. White Horse Inn, 10:30 p.m., $5.

Cool [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & Soul Profess spin R&B and funk, reggae, & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $20.

Cool [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., $5 before 10 p.m.

Dizzy Lady Kyle [illegible] Pounds, 9:30 p.m., $5.

"The Deeper Side of Soul" soulful dance music w/ a rotating lineup of DJs, La Estrellita Cafe, 9:30 p.m., free.

DJ spins DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

[illegible] bass-heavy beats by DJs Ann Sax, [illegible], Lolo Taylor, [illegible] The [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Simplex, and Akaz. The New Parish, 10 p.m., $20-$25.

La Bold Loca Latin cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa [illegible] plus hot [illegible]. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15.

[illegible] Latino Night DJ [illegible] spins salsa, merengue, cumbia, vallenato, reggae, reggae en español, & and more. Congo Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

Reggae [illegible] with DJ [illegible] Mozz, free DJ Vept. The New Parish, 9 p.m., free.

Sonoro Saturdays rotating DJs spin African hip-hop, neo soul, and world flavors. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $7 after.

Soul Reckless w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soul. Bear & Beagle. The Mission Lounge, 11 p.m., free.

[illegible] w/ DJ Kimani spinning Bulerias, funk, [illegible], and soul. Starlet Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., $0.

Warm-Up w/ DJ Fluid Cat spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Sonoro Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free.

Weight w/ Big Poppa [illegible] [illegible] and Sabella [illegible] spinning hip-hop, dancehall, '90s R&B, [illegible], [illegible] and more. The Layover, 9 p.m., free.

SUNDAY 9

The Break w/ [illegible] natives Kev Choice and DJ D Sharp. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m., free.

Dipped w/ The Rocket City DJs, featuring Mark Market, Eric Rubio, DJs [illegible], [illegible] One, and and Basement spinning classic R&B and soul. Dragon Rouge, 3-8 p.m., free.

DJ [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Sterile Sunday Beer Party w/ DJ [illegible] spinning house, [illegible] and dance remixes. White Horse Inn, 5:30 p.m., free.

Kings @ Wings DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin roots rock, and reggae. Shattuck Down Low, 10 p.m., $10.

[illegible] Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & roots reggae. The [illegible] Tiki Club, 7 p.m., free.

MONDAY 10

Caribbean Nights w/ DJs Sarg and Luis Green spinning world, reggae, Latin, hip-hop. [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

Three-Day Weekend DJ Prozack [illegible] [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Underground Lounge psyche, '60s & garage, '70s music, dance, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJs spinning rock and roll, soft [illegible], oldies, & soul. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

TUESDAY 11

DJ Music [illegible] Money spinning rock, [illegible] [illegible] & more. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

DJ Wendy spinning punk. Last Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

Funky Good Ivo w/ DJ Saleeka DC spinning funk, reggae, afrobeat, dancehall, balkan beat, dirty south, grime, '90's hip-hop, [illegible], [illegible]. The Layover, 10 p.m., free.

Bold Fyah w/ Juan G and rotating guests spinning reggae, dancehall, and African rhythms. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

WEDNESDAY 12

EAST BAY

Band Candy w/ DJs Sean and Bad Mouth spinning indie and videos for girls who love girls. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5, $7.

Hump Day w/ DJs Jef & Dad [illegible] @ [illegible]. The Impulse Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

The Jet Set w/ DJ Santero and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

The Hang Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15.

[illegible] dancehall w/ DJ Fee Daj. The Layover, 8:30 p.m., free.

Music Video Night Select beats videos to be played on a huge screen in the Space Lounge. Saturn Cafe, 7:30 p.m., free.

Pura [illegible] Latin cowboy night w/ [illegible] [illegible]. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., $6-$15.

Golden resident DJs Soul Profess and Leyd and special guests spin hip-hop, deep house, broken beat, uptempo dancehall, reggae, and Brazilian rhythms. Starlet Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Trainwreck! DJ Terrible Timmy spins everything from doo-wop to punk rock. Beer Bar, Side Lounge, Bar 90s, Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

PICK

DJ Premier vs. Pete Rock. The Battle

Pitting former Gang Starr producer DJ Premier against [illegible] Pete Rock is hip-hop's version of a Mayweather-Pacquiao battle royale, except in this case, the fighters will use records and cross-fades instead of right hooks and uppercuts. To some, it'll be almost as exciting. In fact, the two could almost battle on résumés alone: Premier has supplied beats for Jay-Z, Biggie Smalls, Nas, and a whole slew of other famed rappers, and has worked with the late emcee Guru. Pete Rock is one of the most well-known auteurs in the genre, having all but created the dominant sound of melodic East Coast rap. A couple years ago he even tried his hand at bebop, backing jazz drummer Karriem Riggins and famed pianist Mulgrew Miller at Yoshi's. This week the two will duke it out at Mighty (119 Utah St., San Francisco) on Friday, Sept. 7, with an opening set by DJ Apollo and a little engaging banter by host Fran Boogie. Expect blood sport, or at least an exciting grudge match. 9 p.m., $30, $35. Mighty119.com — *Rachel Swan*

AQUARIUM AGE

NERVOUS ENERGY

For the week of September 5-11, 2012

By Raffee Finn

Nervous systems quiver with intensity this week, as several celestial patterns up the ante on the already hectic pace of terrestrial life. Even if you're not involved in any time-specific deadlines or plans and projects in need of staying on schedule, you're likely to feel time simply slipping away. And that could lead to a peculiar stress reminiscent of a recurring dream many of us have where no matter how hard we try, we just can't seem to make the plane, train or school bus. But that's not all. The fabric of human interactions, already stretched from the strain of significant emotional demands, is sure to echo from an increased need to make sense not only of personal circumstances, but also of our collective situation.

Despite several planetary configurations that provide the potential for the solid, grounded application of common sense, a strange and uncontrollable need to test the limits of all sorts of realities causes nervous systems to stay on high alert. As this astral adrenalin pumps through the week, do whatever it is you do to stay calm, centered, and reliant upon the biggest possible perspective to guide you through the particulars.

Mercury, symbolizing all intellectual functions and endeavors, is at the source of this week's nervous energy. Currently in Virgo, its Home Sign, which makes its mental might even mightier, Mercury is in a conjunction with the Sun, a sextile to Mars, a trine to Pluto, and a square to Jupiter. When Mercury shares the same space with the Sun, we tend to experience a lack of objectivity that often manifests as the inability to listen to and consider the opinions of others. (By the way, listening doesn't necessarily mean you have to agree.) When Mercury forms a positive alliance with Mars, minds tend to move quickly, and because Mars is currently in Scorpio, a highly intuitive Sign, some of what occurs as a result could manifest as emotional agitation, especially if imagination takes over and urges the mind to latch onto the worst possible scenarios.

The good news in this Mercury mess is that when Mercury trines Pluto, we have an opportunity to experience an almost devotional need to get to the bottom of things intellectually. Mercury, in the form of Hermes, is the only Olympian god to travel between heaven and hell in the blink of the mind's eye. So when it joins with Pluto, or Hades, the god of the underworld, our minds have a tendency to travel between our own personal heaven and hell. Fortunately, a trine is a positive partnership, but you will still have to pay close attention to where your mind wants to wander — and why. Use this trine as an opportunity to gather self-awareness.

A Mercury/Jupiter square that also includes the Sun/Mercury conjunction provides the possibilities for an expansive perspective. While this bundle tends toward extravagance or exaggeration, it just as easily leans toward humor, and given the wide range of ideas we are sure to encounter during the week, irony is likely to take the lead.

Use your wit wisely, but also keep in mind that many of us are feeling hypersensitive as a consequence of the Uranus/Pluto square that's leaning toward its second exact contact on September 19, and too much mockery at the expense of others might have a detrimental effect.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Let go of your need to control the outcome, and you'll open to a wide range of positive possibilities. Stay fluid during this process; you'll be pleased with the results.

TAURUS Give yourself permission to examine new belief systems, especially ideas about what relationships should look like. Stay true to you and you'll come up with creative solutions.

GEMINI It takes a gigantic effort, but if you stay focused, you'll be able to put together exactly what you need to create a greater sense of safety and security, internal as well as external.

CANCER Powerful conversations with partners help to clarify important issues that have been lying beneath the surface of your daily interactions. Embrace these revelations and you'll experience a deep relief.

LEO Wear your love like heaven. Step into the spotlight, and hold it as long as you like. Your personal charisma is potent and powerful and capable of opening new opportunities for success.

VIRGO You've got a lot to say, and nothing is going to keep you from sharing your opinions. Just remember (when you come up for air) to try and listen to what others have to say.

LIBRA The secret to the week is to not take anything so seriously that you forget to laugh at life's ironies. I'm not suggesting disconnection. I'm advising non-attachment.

SCORPIO You're still in the leadership position, but that doesn't mean you have all the answers. Trust your instincts, and you'll handle the particulars of the situation as they arise.

SAGITTARIUS Rather than be nervous about the future, seize this powerful moment, and put your ambitions into motion. You just might surprise yourself by accomplishing your goals.

CAPRICORN Take a moment to reflect on what actually matters most to you, and then devise a strategy that will allow you to align thought, word, and action with those values.

AQUARIUS If you refuse to engage in negative thinking, despite the nervous frequency of the week, you'll retain the ability to stay steady and solid in the midst of the madness.

PISCES Opportunities to make great strides in communication with significant others continue. So be clear and direct about what it is you want to say. And just be sure to listen with equal intensity. ●

Editor's Note: Due to business and budgetary reasons, this will be the last column of Aquarium Age to run in the Express. You can continue to read the column online at AquariumAge.com

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-837-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

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Fictitious Business Name Statement

File # 467578-79

The following individual is doing business as [illegible] Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible] [illegible] This business is conducted by a Corporation. [illegible] 6/15/2012 [illegible] on 7/18/2012

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

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File # 467806

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8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

File # 467977

[illegible] Oakland, CA 94606 [illegible]

8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

[illegible] County of Alameda [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible] NOTICE OF HEARING [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

[illegible] TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible] NOTICE OF HEARING [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/29, 8/15, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible] Hayward, CA [illegible]

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/29, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

[illegible] TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/2012

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

CASE NO. [illegible]

[illegible] A HEARING on the petition will be held on [illegible] 2120 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704 [illegible] Telephone: 415-434-0434

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER: [illegible]

Superior Court of California County of Alameda [illegible] TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible] NOTICE OF HEARING: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court

8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER: [illegible]

[illegible] TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible] NOTICE OF HEARING: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19/2012

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SAVAGE LOVE

BURNING UP

Plus the benefits of hookup apps.

By Dan Savage

I have been in a long-term relationship with a wonderful woman who doesn't have a lot of people she socializes with in her daily life. She is a Burning Man person and converses online with other "burners." I confronted her when I realized she was discussing the ups and downs of our relationship in a public online forum. She still hung out on that forum, but her presence diminished. I assumed she was socializing in private emails. A few months later, I discovered that she was actually moderating a different forum. I deleted the site from my history and decided to avoid it. Last week, while she was at Burning Man, I checked out the forum she moderates, even though I knew I shouldn't have. What I found was that she never mentions having a boyfriend, even when it might be relevant to a discussion. I was never mentioned, not even in passing. I don't mind that guys compliment her, and I understand the benefits of positive attention from the opposite sex. If she came to me and told me that is what she was seeking and that it was chaste, I would be fine with it as long as she made that clear to other forum members.

We are both attractive, and I get attention at times from other women. I often mention that I have a girlfriend to avoid someone getting the wrong idea. I also feel like she saves the spontaneous, uninhibited, and adventurous part of herself for these people at Burning Man. Does it sound like she is cheating emotionally? How can I bring this subject up in a way that doesn't make me seem like just more of a depressing part of her life? I don't want her to lose her outlet, but I feel like she is not showing me the respect one should show a partner of ten-plus years.

Her Burning Man

I don't want to alarm you unnecessarily, HBM, but partnered people who go to Burning Man sans partner are typically planning to cheat. Cheat cheat, not cheat emote. Casual straight sex—like sandy ass cracks and seeing my friend Erin naked—is a huge part of the Burning Man "experience."

But the kind of straight guy who goes to Burning Man for casual sex—and the art and the experience and the transcendence—doesn't give a shit if the girls he fucks have boyfriends back home. Or in the next tent. Your girlfriend could post your picture to Burning Man forums, mention you in every face-to-face conversation she has, and wear a shirt with your picture on it everywhere she goes on the playa, HBM, and she'd still find plenty of guys willing to fuck her brains out.

Mentioning you in online forums, not mentioning you in online forums—neither action is proof that she plans to cheat or not cheat. So I'm sitting here racking my brain trying to come up with some other reason why your girlfriend might not have mentioned you in an online Burning Man forum that she moderates.

Thinking, thinking, thinking.

Hey! Maybe it's because the last time you caught her talking about you and your relationship in a public online forum, YOU BLEW THE FUCK UP AT HER. Remember? You were angry then because she was talking about you on the interwebs. And you're angry now that she isn't talking about you on the interwebs.

If you're looking for a reason why your girlfriend feels inhibited around you, HBM, maybe it's the mixed signals. She gets in trouble for talking about you; she gets in trouble for not talking about you. If your girlfriend feels like she's going to be in trouble with you no matter what she does, HBM, then she's going to feel inhibited around you. And she's going to err on the side of sharing less of what she does with you.

When your girlfriend gets back from Burning Man, HBM, here's what I think you should say: "I realize this makes me sound crazy, and maybe I am crazy. But remember when I was upset about you talking about me—about us—in that public online forum? Well, I stumbled on another online forum, and you weren't talking about me. And that upset me, too."

Acknowledge your insecurities, HBM, take some responsibility for the impact they may have on her behavior, and then have a long talk about how you can both enjoy a little attention from members of the opposite sex without making the other person feel like shit.

I've been dating someone for a little more than two months. After the second week, he was saying things like "We need a word between 'like' and 'love' because 'I like you' doesn't seem sufficient." After weeks of telling him to slow his roll, I agreed to make it official and stop dating and sleeping with other guys because he wanted to "lock it down." It's been a week, and he's still on Scruff and Growlr. I'm a little put off because he was the one who pushed for exclusivity and the title of boyfriend. Should I be concerned? Can hookup apps be part of a healthy monogamous relationship? Obviously a talk is needed.

Sick of Scruff

Obviously.

Maybe your boyfriend wants to cheat but doesn't want to be cheated on—he wants his boyfriend locked down but doesn't want to be locked down himself—or maybe he thinks it's too soon to delete his online personal profiles. Or maybe, like a lot of gay men, he treats hookup apps like a virtual gay bar, i.e., a place where he can hang out and socialize with friends and exes and, perhaps, get his flirt on now and then.

But if lurking on Scruff and Growlr makes his newly locked-down boyfriend feel insecure, he should stay off hookup apps. Or if he simply can't give 'em up, your new boyfriend should allow you to look at his chats whenever you care to so you can see for yourself that they're either wholly innocent (just talking with friends) or wholly innocent flirting (swapping photos and compliments with hot guys but not making plans to hook up). ●

Find the *Savage Lovecast* (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage
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At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA All right, title and interest under Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County, as more fully described on the above referenced assessment lien. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVE #[illegible] EMERYVILLE CA 94608 The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: $[illegible] accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant, BRIDGEWATER OWNERS ASSOCIATION under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO or visit this Internet Web site WWW.priorityposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 2012-1401. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD SUBJECT TO THE NINETY DAY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION CONTAINED IN CIVIL CODE SECTION 1367.4(C)(4). PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 714-573-1965 or LOG ONTO WWW.priorityposting.com Date: 8/20/2012 S.B.S. Lien Services 31194 La Baya Drive, Suite 106 Westlake Village, California 91362 Antonia Young, Trustee Sale Officer WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P980483 9/5, 9/12, 09/19/2012

Title Order No. 7742-344326 Trustee Sale No. 2009-2820 Reference No. EL 22-0045-01 APN No. [illegible]-1542-041 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED [illegible] UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 9/12/2012 at 12:00 PM, S.B.S. LIEN SERVICES As the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on 8/5/2009 as Document No. 2009235914 Book Page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, the purported owner(s) of said property is (are): SAMEER KHOURY AND JON WARDLAW WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a State or National bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.) At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA. All right, title and interest under Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County, as more fully described on the above referenced assessment lien. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 52 LOOP 22, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: $[illegible] accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant, ELEVATION 22 OWNERS ASSOCIATION under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO or visit this Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case [illegible]. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD SUBJECT TO THE NINETY DAY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION CONTAINED IN CIVIL CODE SECTION 1367.4(C)(4). PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO www.priorityposting.com. Date: 8/7/2012 S.B.S. Lien Services 31194 La Baya Drive, Suite 106 Westlake Village, CA 91362 Antonia Young, Trustee Sale Officer WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P977324 8/22, 8/29, 09/05/2012

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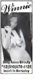
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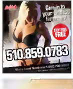
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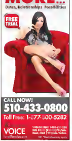
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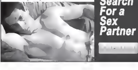
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Title Order No. 1119756 Trustee Sale No. 2012-1414 Reference No. [illegible] APN No. 049-1536-105 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED 10/4/2011. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 9/26/2012 at 12:00 PM S.B.S. LIEN SERVICES As the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on November 7, 2011 as Document No. 2011318162 Book Page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, the purported owner(s) of said property is (are): RYAN RUBIO WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a State or National bank, a check drawn by a state of federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.): At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA. All right, title and interest under Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County as more fully described in the above referenced assessment lien. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVE #5205 Emeryville CA 94608. The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: $13,281.41 accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant: BRIDGEWATER OWNERS ASSOCIATION under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO or visit this Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com using the file number assigned to this case 2012-1414. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD SUBJECT TO THE NINETY DAY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION CONTAINED IN CIVIL CODE SECTION 1367.4(C)(4). PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714) 573-1965 or LOG ONTO www.priorityposting.com. Date: 8/29/2012 S.B.S. Lien Services 31194 La Baya Drive, Suite 106 Westlake Village, CA 91362 Annissa Young, Trustee Sale Officer WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P980724 9/5, 9/12, 09/19/2012

Title Order No. 1119004 Trustee Sale No. 2012-1404 Reference No. [illegible] APN No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED 10/4/2011. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 9/19/2012 at 12:00 PM S.B.S. LIEN SERVICES As the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on November 7, 2011 as Document No. [illegible] Book Page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, the purported owner(s) of said property is (are): [illegible] PATEL WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a State or National bank, a check drawn by a state of federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.): At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA. All right, title and interest under Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County as more fully described in the above referenced assessment lien. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVE #1112 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: [illegible] accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant: BRIDGEWATER OWNERS ASSOCIATION under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. 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If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO or visit this Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com using the file number assigned to this case 2012-1404. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD SUBJECT TO THE NINETY DAY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION CONTAINED IN CIVIL CODE SECTION 1367.4(C)(4). PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714) 573-1965 or LOG ONTO www.priorityposting.com. Date: 8/16/2012 S.B.S. Lien Services 31194 La Baya Drive, Suite 106 Westlake Village, California 91362 Annissa Young, Trustee Sale Officer WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. [illegible] 09/12/2012

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